■ Lifestyle / C1

Carolina Herrera goes dramatic in colors of semi-precious stones

■ Metro / A23

Edsa pink fences to stay, says MMDA

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Robert Blake found not guilty of wife's murder

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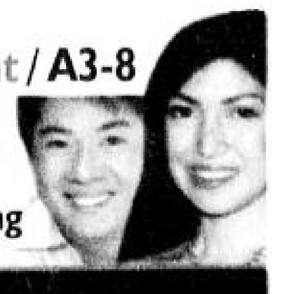
RP needs its own Alcatraz, says lawmaker

■ Entertainment / A3-8

Willie Revillame, beauty queen wife plan church wedding



Colonel would have gotten away with it if not for his wife

MUNTIK NANG MAKALUSOT!

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

HE WAS found out because of his wife.

Lt. Col. Hilario Lagnada, who holds a sensitive post under the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (J-4), is un-

COLONEL/ A11

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 18, 2005 ★★ 104 pages / 12 sections / Vol. 20 / No.

DOJ bares Abus' Holy Week plot

'Sleepers' to target churches

By Armand N. Nocum
and Christine O. Avendaño

ABU SAYYAF "sleepers" are planning to bomb churches in urban centers in the country during Holy Week next week, a Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutor said yesterday.

"We received word that they have plenty of fresh 'graduates' trained in bombings and demolition. They have also shifted from kidnappings to bombings," State Prosecutor Peter Medalle said yesterday. "The armed struggle is no longer in the mountains but in urban centers."

He said he got the information on Monday at the height of the standoff between Abu Sayyaf detainees and police authorities at the Camp Bagong Diwa jail in Taguig.

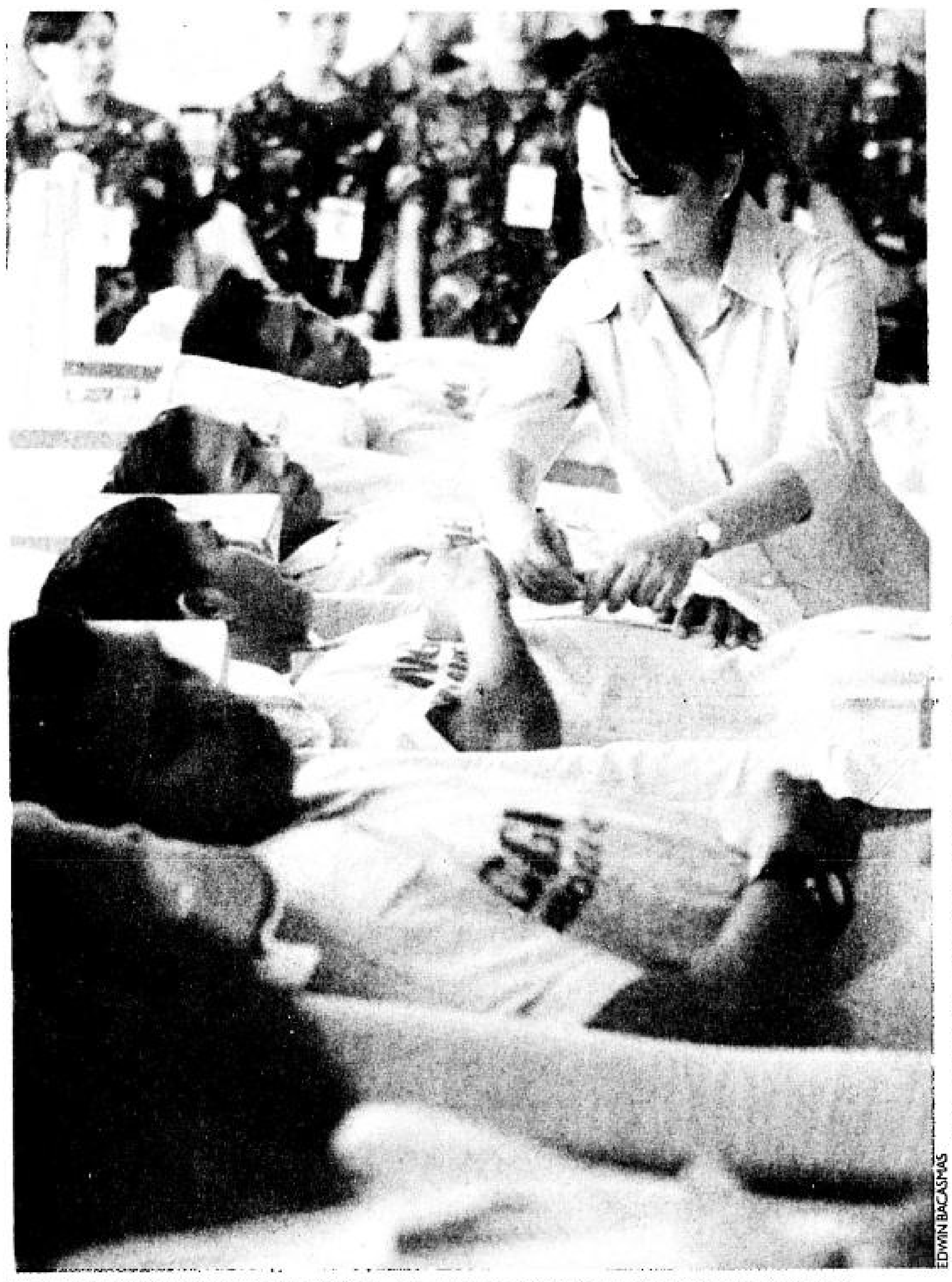
Medalle was one of those who got wind of the Abu Sayyaf plan to bolt the detention center at Camp Bagong Diwa two weeks before it happened.

The Abu Sayyaf threatened to mount retaliatory bombings in Manila and other cities after police crushed a prison uprising allegedly led by its detained leaders on Tuesday.

The Abu Sayyaf may even launch seaborne terror attacks outside the country, the military said, citing the interrogation of a captured Abu Sayyaf member.

The al-Qaida-linked militants also received at least $18,500 over the past year from suspected members of the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah for explosives training, according to a report on the interrogation of Gamal Baharan obtained by The Associated Press.

DOJ BARES/ A20



EDWIN BACASMAS

WOUNDED SOLDIERS HONORED: President Arroyo visits the soldiers injured during the two-week battle with the Misuari Breakaway Group and Abu Sayyaf elements in Jolo, Sulu, late last month, and awards each of them a medal at the Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City.

THE MIRACLE of solar power now illumines the steel sculpture from dusk to dawn at the Corregidor memorial complex, which honors the heroism of Filipino and American soldiers of WW II.

Solar power lights up Eternal Flame of freedom

By Volt Contreras

QUITE a fitting homage to an island fortress that stood its ground against the Empire of the Rising Sun.

The miracle of solar power now illuminates Corregidor's Eternal Flame Monument, which was recently installed in line with the country's yearlong commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

SOLAR/ A8

US urges RP to sign free trade agreement

US ASSISTANT Trade Representative Barbara Weisel yesterday urged the Philippines to sign a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States to boost its economy and keep it globally competitive.

Weisel said a newly completed study by the Hawaii-based East-West Center think tank found that for the Philippines, "there would be a benefit of a 3.1 percent increase in nominal GDP (gross domestic product)" on concluding such a pact with its largest trading partner.

She said the Philippine government was also conducting a parallel study.

The Philippine economy expanded at an eight-year high of 6.1 percent in 2004, but it lags behind many of its neighbors in both growth and foreign direct investment.

Weisel said an FTA with the United States, the world's biggest

US/ A4

Las Vegas odds favoring Pinoy sensation zoom up

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—A strange thing happened in the sports betting lines here yesterday after odds in favor of Manny Pacquiao got even bigger.

There was general expectation that the numbers would start to level off following the arrival of Erik Morales at this fight site on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), as Mexican sentiment would eventually prevail.

Odds are based on the sums wagered on a particular fighter or team.

Pacquiao, who has been favored over Morales since the fight announcement in January, was a minus-130 favorite before the arrival of Morales.

That meant a $130 bet on Pacquiao would pay only $100.

Pacquiao was, however, a bigger minus-135 favorite yesterday, as announced in the fight press conference at MGM Grand.

Morales, on the other hand,

LAS VEGAS/ A20

AFP: How can kidnappers be martyrs?

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Norman Bordadora

AS FAR as the military is concerned, the souls of the 22 Abu Sayyaf suspects killed Tuesday during a police assault on the Camp Bagong Diwa jail did not go to heaven but to hell.

"They are not true Muslims. They are not true believers. That's why Allah sent them to hell," Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, military spokesperson, said yesterday.

The 22, including three notorious Abu Sayyaf leaders, were buried as *"shahid,"* or martyrs the other day at the Imam Moh Kusim Memorial Park in Taguig, the only Muslim cemetery in Metro Manila.

The families of the slain Abu Sayyaf members, the Muslim community in Taguig and their leaders declared them martyrs because they died without the capability of defending themselves and the court had not yet ruled on their guilt.

"How can you consider martyrs [men] who killed innocent

AFP/ A20

Storm batters Samar, Leyte; 5 dead, 3 missing

By Jhunnex Napallacan
and Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—At least five persons were killed and three others were reported missing in the wake of Tropical Storm "Auring."

Of the five, three drowned when a passenger motorboat capsized off the port of Ormoc City before dawn yesterday. The two others, an elderly woman and a 5-year-old girl, were reportedly hit by falling trees and killed in Cebu.

Strong winds toppled electricity poles, cutting off power in most parts of the Eastern Visayas and in two towns in Cebu, the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Eastern and Central Visayas (Regions 8 and 7) reported.

Thousands of people were stranded in various Visayan ports, with inter-island vessels ordered by authorities to stay put.

Adriano Fuego, chief of the OCD in Eastern Visayas, said a passenger boat and a fishing boat were both anchored 1.5 nautical miles from the Ormoc port Wednesday night, supposedly to seek shelter from the storm. But both vessels capsized at around 3 a.m. because of strong winds and rough seas.

Renato Cariño, one of 16 fishermen on board the fishing boat Senior Santiago, was reported missing, according to Lt. Commander Charlie Rances, chief of the Ormoc Coast Guard. The others have been rescued.

Those who drowned, all passengers of the M/B Esperanza 8, were identified as Maria Gubalane, 51; Lito Gunoccor, 47,

STORM/ A4

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ROCES AT THE INQUIRER

The INQUIRER led by board chair, Marixi R. Prieto, hosts a dinner for Susan Roces on Wednesday at its main office in Makati City on the occasion of the selection of her late husband, Fernando Poe Jr., as the Filipino of the Year 2004.

Sour spaghetti downs 85 kids in Tarlac town

By PDI Central Luzon Desk
and PDI Visayas Bureau

WITH the death of 27 schoolchildren in Bohol after eating pesticide-laced cassava still fresh in the nation's memory, two more cases of mass food poisoning—also victimizing pupils—were reported in Tarlac and Southern Leyte on Wednesday.

In Concepcion town in Tarlac, a graduation celebration for daycare pupils sent at least 85 children and some adults to the hospital when they fell ill after eating spaghetti served during the school affair hours earlier.

Regional health director Juvencio Ordoña said the children vomited and suf-

SOUR/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Visayas and Palawan including Mindoro will have stormy weather. The rest of Southern Luzon and Central Visayas will experience rains and occasional gusty winds. Central and Eastern Luzon and the rest of Visayas will experience cloudy skied with scattered rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/18/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Stormy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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'RP needs its own Alcatraz'

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S TIME we built our own Alcatraz, a legislator has suggested amid the finger-pointing and breast-beating in the aftermath of the Abu Sayyaf uprising in a Taguig jail early this week that left 26 dead.

Rep. Abraham Mitra said the government could turn one of the country's 7,100 islands into the "Philippine version of Alcatraz" where hardened criminals and terrorists could be jailed.

The Palawan congressman was referring to the virtually impregnable island-prison off San Francisco where notorious American criminals were kept.

Today, it lies empty and is one of the more popular tourist destinations in San Francisco.

"We need a specifically made-for-terrorists jail house...Perhaps what we need is an Alcatraz," he said.

"It will be a security nightmare to allow terrorists who rape, kidnap, and kill to mingle with ordinary criminals in a jail setting that looks more of a town center with its stores than a place of incarceration," Mitra said.

He noted that the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa was "more vibrant with its tiangges and karaoke stalls than remote barrios in Basilan."

Prisoners like the Abu Sayyaf suspects should be held in an isolated place so that "they would really pay for their crimes...preferably an island. The sea can serve as a moat around the prison. A place impossible to escape from and so isolated that no inmate will dare pull a publicity stunt because no TV crew can come," Mitra said.

But he ruled out the Iwahig Penal Colony in his province as a site for his proposed island prison.

"It's a prison without walls so it's not ideal for terrorists," he said.

Mitra also ruled out the Spratlys because the disputed South China Sea island chain was "without fresh water and far from civilization."

"We also have to consider the welfare of the jail guards," he said.

He suggested that the island prison could be maximized, putting the space to use as "a lighthouse, an environmental station, a search and rescue detachment, and a training camp for sea-based forces."

"To save on costs, the buildings need not be large for after all these are for a few special prisoners only," Mitra added.

Wakeup call

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, meanwhile, said the bloody Taguig jail crisis should serve as a wakeup call for government to improve the country's penal system.

"Lives are wasted again because of the failure of government to address institutional issues affecting the criminal justice system," said Bishop Pedro Arigo, chair of the Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care.

"We appeal that vacancies in the justice system, the congested, outdated, outmoded and dilapidated jail and prison facilities, inadequate personnel, and corruption be properly addressed," Arigo said in a statement.

The CBCP said the prisoners who tried to bolt the high-security jail facility had "legitimate demands but used the wrong method of bringing them to the attention of the people concerned."

They complained of deplorable conditions at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig on top of insisting that not all of them were Abu Sayyaf bandits, the CBCP said in a statement.

Among the fatalities was a 75-year-old inmate who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He was among some 100 suspects arrested in Mindanao more than two years ago.

Heartbreaking

The CBCP also described as "heartbreaking" the "death of the correctional employees who were carrying out their duties despite the lack of resources, not to mention their meager salary, and lack of benefits."

The director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Arturo Alit, is under investigation for the alleged security lapses at the jail facility for the country's most notorious inmates.

Alit has refused to step down, despite calls by some senators for his resignation.

Sen. Ralph Recto said jail congestion cannot be solved just by building more jails.

Speedy resolution

"The most effective form of jail decongestion is still the speedy resolution of the cases of the detained," Recto said in a statement.

He said the courts are also suffering from congestion, citing Supreme Court records showing that the lower courts were clogged with 778,556 pending cases by the end of 2003.

This was a slight improvement from the 784,709 cases pending in 2002, he said.

"Due to judicial delays, many detainees have actually stayed in jail longer than ...the maximum prison time for the crimes they have been charged with," Recto said.

Too crammed

The senator said the country's jails are so crammed that one inmate occupies an average 1.6 square meters of jail space.

"The density of about seven prisoners per 10-sqm of jail space" is one of the world's highest," Recto said in a statement.

He said the overcrowding leads to poor sanitation and hygiene, making the prisoners vulnerable to disease.

"Our jails have become hothouses for epidemics," Recto said.

Unfortunately for the prisoners, Recto said no relief was in sight because the 2005 national budget does not provide funds for the construction of new cells.

With a report from Christian V. Esguerra and Juliet Labog-Javellana

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VAT passage delay costing RP—Purisima

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IN WHAT could be the government's last-ditch effort to convince the Senate to pass the value-added tax measure, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima yesterday told senators that the delay in the passage was causing the country some P5 billion in lost opportunity every month.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Purisima told senators in a briefing that based on the projected P60-billion additional revenue from VAT, P5 billion or P165 million a day was lost due to the delay in approving of the tax measure.

"That is why there is a need for us to work on this measure as fast as we can," Drilon said.

The Senate ends its session today for a three-week Lenten break. The House of Representatives last night adjourned, effectively shelving the final approval of the VAT measure until April 11.

After a five-hour caucus of senators yesterday, the fourth in four days where three Cabinet officials were called to explain, Sen. Ralph Recto ruled out the passage of the VAT in the Senate this week or next.

"I don't believe we will finish it by (today)," Recto said. The Senate version, he added, might not be passed until after sessions resume next month.

"There's a lot of data that at least two senators are asking for [from] the DoF (Department of Finance) and DoE (Department of Energy) for them to be able to make up their minds on policy considerations," Recto said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said Malacañang had the option of calling a special session next week, but so far there was no request.

After the caucus, the Senate suspended its session and will resume this afternoon, their last day unless there is a last-minute request from Malacañang for a special session.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said the Palace was still weighing whether it should call for a special session. "It depends on whether the Senate would be able to pass its VAT bill.

Purisima, Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno were summoned to the Senate to address questions by Senators Panfilo Lacson, Sergio Osmeña III, Jinggoy Estrada and Jamby Madrigal.

The senators were concerned with the inclusion of power companies, petroleum, airline and shipping companies in the coverage of VAT, the reduction of excise taxes on petroleum and removal of the franchise tax on power companies and the increase in corporate income tax.

Osmeña reportedly walked out of the caucus over Drilon's insistence to pass the VAT measure before lawmakers adjourn today for the Holy Week break.

"You just can't pass a bill into law [you know] will hurt the people, and do a sloppy job," said Osmeña. "You can't just pass a sloppy VAT."

Osmeña still wanted more information from the power sector, while Madrigal asked for documents from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Meanwhile, Filipinos will have to shell out P2.65 per liter more on their fuel purchases and add 62.54 centavos per kilowatt-hour on their electricity bills under the Malacañang-backed proposal for a 12-percent VAT on previously exempted oil companies and power producers. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Mike L. Ubac*

NBI: Pesticide killed Bohol kids

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday said that *coumaphos*, an organophosphate pesticide and insecticide, was the poison that caused the deaths of 27 schoolchildren in Mabini, Bohol, last week.

The NBI's findings virtually confirmed the conclusions of the Department of Health which had ruled out cyanide as the cause of the massive food poisoning.

"It was not cyanide [but] coumaphos. It was found on the specimen collected from the house of vendor Ana Maria Luyong in Barangay Paraiso, particularly in the frying pan she used in preparing the cassava," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said.

Wycoco said Luyong may have mistaken the coumaphos for flour or starch during the preparation of the cassava sweets that she sold to the schoolchildren.

The chemical is odorless and looks like flour, he said.

Wycoco said the highly toxic chemical was found in the internal organs, blood and stomach contents of two of the victims, Wilfredo Luyong Jr. and Sherwin Asaa, both 7.

Authorities earlier suspected cyanide poisoning from the cassava sweets. Cyanide is found in the root of the cassava tuber, a staple for most Filipinos, but is rendered virtually harmless when cooked properly.

According to Dr. Idabel Pagulayan, chief of the NBI forensic chemistry division, coumaphos is a deadly chemical which is an ingredient found in household and agricultural pesticides.

It is used to kill or control cockroaches, bed bugs, lice in poultry and birds, and fleas and ticks in dogs and other domestic animals.

It is also marketed as a powder to remove toilet odors.

"It has a very potent toxicity. It can produce adverse effects on humans through skin contact and definitely is much more deadly when ingested even in small amounts. The victims here were children, so they were more vulnerable," Pagulayan said.

Wycoco has ordered lawyer Rene Mandawe, the case's head investigator, to return to Mabini to find out what specific brands of pesticides and insecticides containing coumaphos were being marketed there. *Tina Santos*

THE WINNING FEU team, from left, Dianna Karenina Chebat, Michael Morro, Prof. Gerald Villar and Dean Danny Cabulay.

FEU studes win Harvard tilt

FAR EASTERN University marketing students Michael Morro and Dianna Karenina Chebat won two awards at the 2005 Entrepreneurial Idol Contest sponsored by the Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 3.

Morro and Chebat won the "Most Likely to Have a Global Impact" award and the "People's Choice" award for their BoardTech business plan which proposed the use of construction panel boards made from recycled metal scraps in order to address the needs of low-cost housing while encouraging the practice of recycling.

The two were coached by Dean Danny Cabulay and Prof. Gerald Villar.

Other awardees were Bryant University (Rhode Island), Harvard Business School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wharton and Yale University.

The FEU community, led by chair Dr. Lourdes R. Montinola and president Lydia Dr. Lydia Echauz and the FEU Alumni Foundation and Nicanor Reyes Memorial Foundation, hosted a celebratory reception for the team.

Small oil players hike pump prices

BARELY a week after adjusting their prices, new oil players Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V, Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. today hiked the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter.

Unioil was the first to hike its prices, implementing the adjustment at 6 a.m. Eastern and Flying V followed suit at 12 p.m., while Seaoil increased its prices at 6 p.m.

They all cited the surge in regional and international oil prices as the reason for the price increase.

As of March 16, the benchmark Dubai crude had reached an average price of $44.68 a barrel, up by almost $5 from last month's average of $39.87 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also climbed to an average of $59.07 a barrel in the first 16 days of March, from only $54.27 a barrel last month.

The price of MOPS-based diesel likewise soared to an all-time high March 1-16 average of $66.07 a barrel, almost $11 higher than the February average of $55.63 a barrel.

The escalating prices of oil in the world market was mainly attributed to steep demand for heating fuel in Europe and the northeastern part of the United States, which are both experiencing a prolonged winter and extremely cold weather.

Another factor for the spike in prices was the supply uncertainty brought about by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' March 16 meeting in Iran.

With the meeting now over and with Opec deciding to boost its output by 500,000 barrels a day beginning next month, prices were, based on trends, expected to go down.

However, despite Opec's announcement of a hike in production, world prices continued to soar, seemingly driven more by the huge demand than by any other market factor. *Abigail L. Ho*

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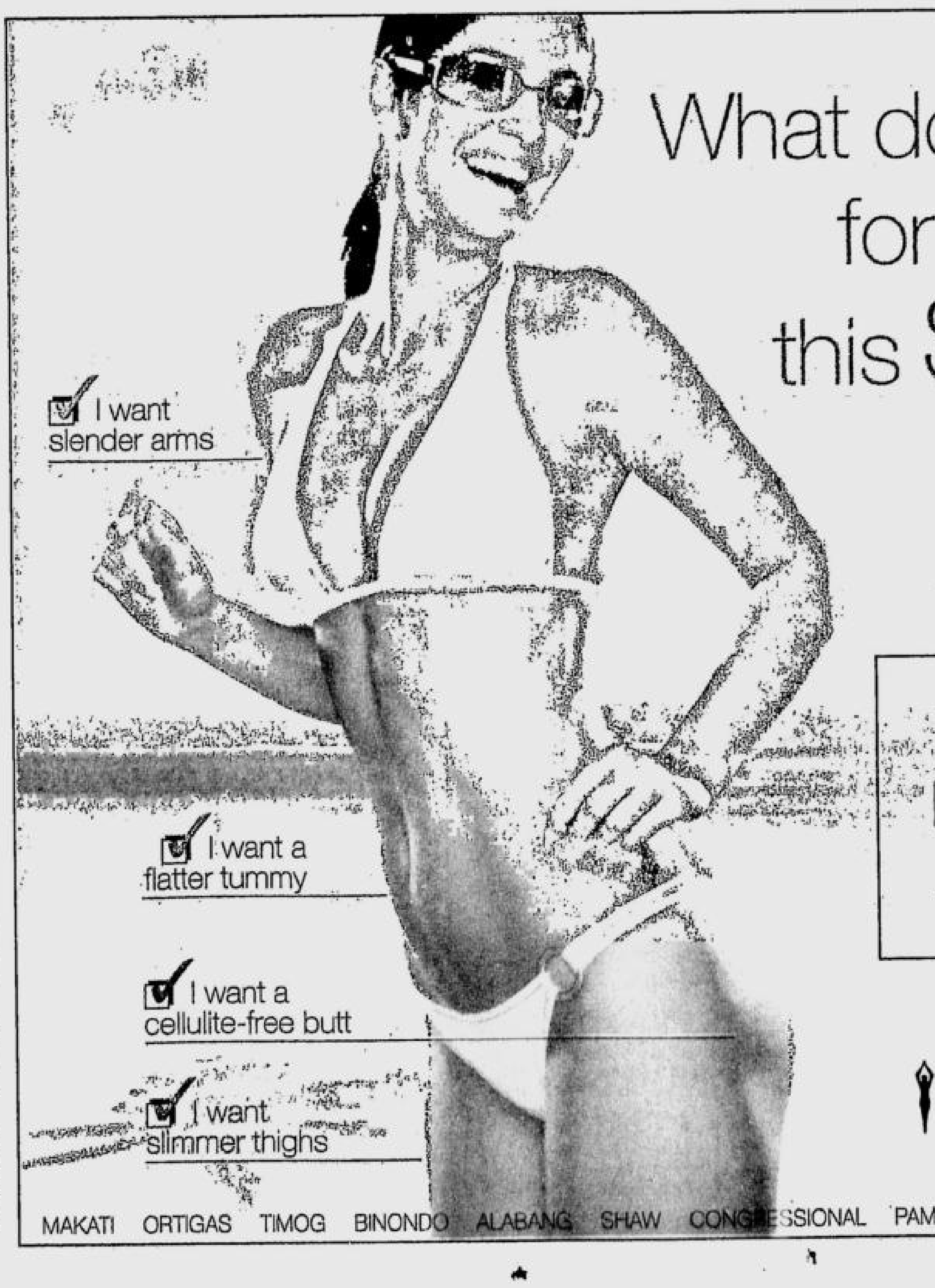
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Storm batters Samar, Leyte; 5 dead, 3 missing

From page A1

and Angelita Calendron, 42. All were residents of Poro town on Camotes Island in Cebu, to which the vessel was heading before it dropped anchor near the port.

Two other passengers—Rey Selendron, 42, and Helen Suralta, 45—also residents of Poro—were reported missing.

The M/B Esperanza, owned by a certain Epitacio Otero, was carrying seven crew members and 23 passengers.

Fuego said the Coast Guard scoured the sea off Ormoc but the missing persons had yet to be found until past noon yesterday.

The survivors were given medical attention by city health personnel. The fatalities were taken to the city health office, to be claimed by their next of kin.

On land, 5-year-old Rowena Alburo of Cawit, Medellin, died after a gmelina tree hit the family residence at around 5 a.m. yesterday.

Demetria Desamparado, 72, of Bantayan Island, also died after being struck by an uprooted coconut tree.

Canceled flights

Storm signal No. 3 was earlier hoisted over Leyte, Panay and Guimaras, and parts of Negros and Cebu.

Pagasa forecasters yesterday said Auring, with winds of 95 kph and gusts of up to 120 kph, was moving slowly away from the Philippines and in the direction of southern Vietnam.

They said signal No. 2 was still in effect over northern Palawan, the Calamian Islands, Cuyo Island, and Antique, and signal No. 1 over Mindoro, Romblon, western Palawan, western Panay and Negros Occidental.

Auring threw a monkey wrench into the holiday plans of hundreds of vacationers eager to make an early start of summer.

A total of 53 flights from Manila and various destinations in the Visayas and Mindanao were canceled yesterday because of the bad weather, according to an update from the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

Particularly affected were the Manila-Caticlan-Manila flights. Caticlan in Aklan is the last takeoff point for the popular tourist spot Boracay.

At the Manila Domestic Terminal, 12 Asian Spirit flights on the Manila-Caticlan-Manila route, as well as three round-trip SeaAir flights, were canceled as early as 5:45 a.m.

Also canceled were a Manila-Caticlan Interisland flight; Asian Spirit's round-trip flights from Manila to Surigao, Calbayog and Masbate, and to Sandoval and Busuanga (both in Palawan); two round-trip SeaAir flights from Manila to Busuanga, and a Cebu Pacific Manila-Roxas-Manila flight.

Power, classes off

At the Centennial Terminal, Philippine Airlines round-trip flights from Manila to Kalibo, Roxas and Legazpi, and a Cebu-Manila flight were canceled as well.

The power supply remained cut in Eastern Visayas because strong winds had also toppled a steel tower in Barangay Masarayaw, Kananga, Leyte, according to Sisinio Quendao, division manager of National Transmission Corp.

Power outages were also reported in Bantayan Island and Medellin, Cebu.

Classes were suspended in all regions in the Visayas.

The Coast Guard grounded sea vessels in the port of Iloilo City, stranding hundreds of people bound for Bacolod City and the island-province of Guimaras. Ferryboats plying the route between the Caticlan port and Boracay were also grounded.

Those plying the Iloilo-Guimaras route were allowed to set sail at around 11 a.m. as the storm weakened.

Bicol and Batangas

At least 3,208 people in seaports across the Bicol region and in Batangas province were stranded as Auring passed over these areas on Wednesday night, reports said.

Arnel Capili, director of the OCP in Bicol, said some 1,907 people, 22 small vehicles, 22 trucks and six passenger buses were stranded at the Matnog seaport; 650 people, 17 trucks, eight small vehicles and 3 passenger buses at the Tabaco seaport, and 300 people at the Pilar seaport.

At the Batangas port, trips to Romblon and the Mindoro provinces were canceled at about 10:30 p.m., stranding 351 passengers and 12 roll-on/roll-off vessels, according to the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council of Calabarzon.

Petty Officer 1st Class Alfonso Dimabayao Jr., Coast Guard station commander in Tabaco City, said that while his office had cleared four vessels, the ships' captains decided not to sail.

Dimabayao said the trips of the M/V Calixta III (which leaves Tabaco daily at 5:30 a.m.), M/V Calixta II (daily at 7 a.m.), and Star Ferry (daily at noon), were canceled because of rough seas. The three vessels belong to the Regina Shipping Lines.

Another ferry boat, the M/V Eugenia of the San Pablo Shipping Lines, which leaves daily at 7:30 a.m., also canceled its trip. *With reports from Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Jed Ll. Bacason, Job B. Belen and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila*

and Political Will
17 March 2005 · 2:
Carlos P.
RCBC Plaza, Mak

VAL HANDUMON

FORMER President Fidel Ramos speaks at the 7th FVR RP Development Lecture on priority economic reforms and political will at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City on Thursday.

US urges RP to sign free trade pact

From page A1

economy, would allow a partner country to stay globally competitive.

"Countries around the world are liberalizing and it is important that as this decision is considered by the Philippine government, that the importance of maintaining its relative competitiveness not just in the region but globally is carefully considered," she told a news conference.

Services, investment

Washington hopes to further open up its former colony's economy, particularly in the areas of services and investment.

"One of the areas that are often raised is financial services as well as telecommunications," Weisel said. "It is in those areas where both sides stand to gain."

The United States has already signed an FTA with Singapore and is in the early stage of negotiating a similar agreement with Thailand under President George W. Bush's "Enterprise for Asean Initiative."

Bush offered to negotiate an FTA with Asean member-countries with which the United States has a trade investment framework agreement (TIFA) and which are members of the World Trade Organization.

Weisel said the United States had TIFA accords with Asean members Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Asean includes the Philippines, Laos, Burma (Myanmar), Singapore and Vietnam.

The Philippines is holding bilateral FTA talks with Japan, its No. 2 trading partner, while both Japan and China have committed to build free trade areas with the Asean as a group.

Higher standards

Weisel said US FTA standards were "higher and the process is more difficult" and involves a commitment to "structural reforms and liberalization to ensure that the FTA really achieves the results that are intended." For the Philippines, this includes a commitment for stronger enforcement of intellectual property rights, she said.

"We are willing to take the time that is necessary to conclude an agreement," Weisel said, adding that the two countries did not yet have a timetable for negotiating an FTA at this stage.

Optimism

A growing band of optimists believe the Philippines has turned the corner on its debt problems under President Macapagal-Arroyo, has been dealt unwarranted blows by rating agency downgrades, and has some of Asia's most exciting investment prospects.

"More so than at any stage I can remember, we really sense a sea change in the perception of the Philippines, both domestically and internationally," Rodney Ward, chair for Asia of UBS AG, recently said at a Philippine investment conference.

The performance of Philippine markets this year supports that view. The main share index is up 15 percent, building on a 26-percent gain last year and buoyed by rising confidence in the telecoms, retail, real estate and mining sectors.

The peso, which spent most of 2004 on the ropes due to political and debt concerns, has jumped to 19-month highs against the dollar, spurred by interest in several planned IPOs.

Foreigners are scrambling for shares in retail holding firm SM Investments, which is aiming to raise more than $500 million at its March 22 listing, the country's largest IPO.

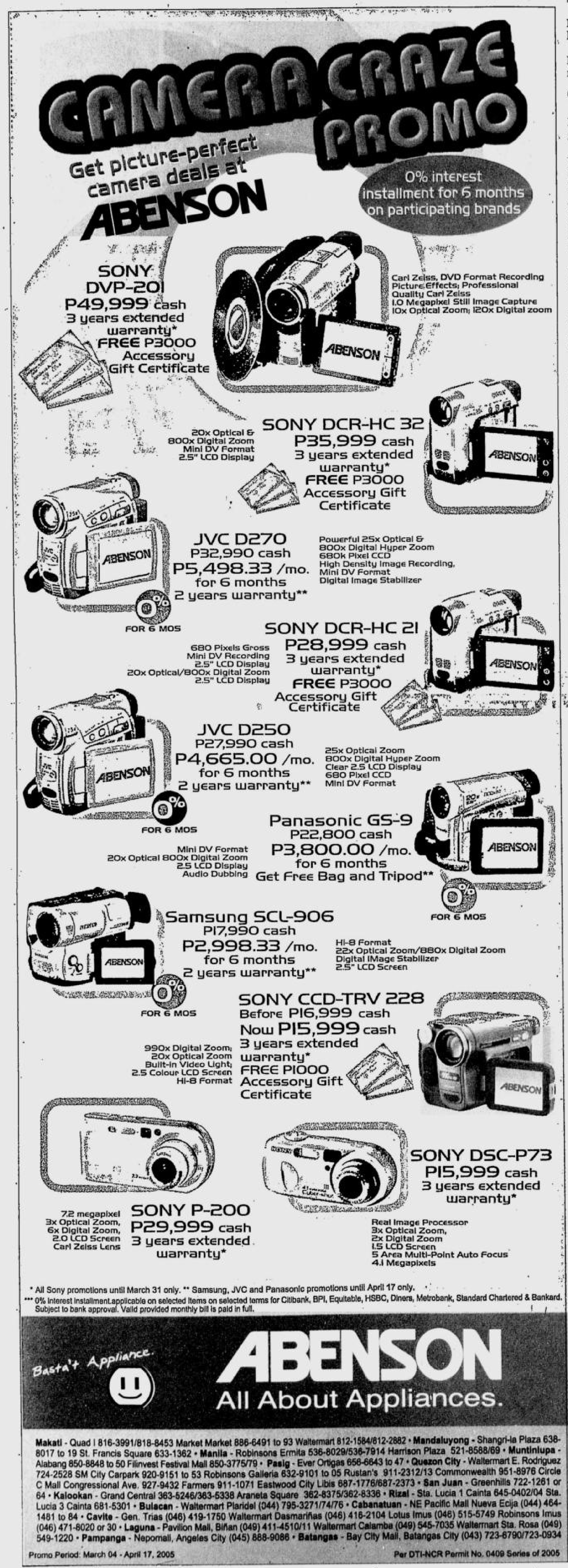
Strong corporate prospects

Strong corporate prospects are raising the chance of a virtuous cycle by boosting the government's puny tax receipts and speeding up the banking sector's long-delayed recovery from the 1997 Asian financial crisis, some analysts say.

"This is the point that has gotten completely lost by everyone," Dilip Shahani, HSBC's head of Asian fixed income credit research, told reporters in Manila this week. "There's an asset reflation going on in the Philippines and in Asia which people have forgotten to talk about."

More pluses

Shahani said there were more pluses than negatives for the Philippines and predicted that Moody's credit rating would upgrade Philippine debt papers by at least one notch by next year. *Reports from AFP and Reuters*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GMA, Cabinet set Holy Week retreat

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet will hold a one-day Lenten retreat on March 22, Holy Tuesday, in Malacañang.

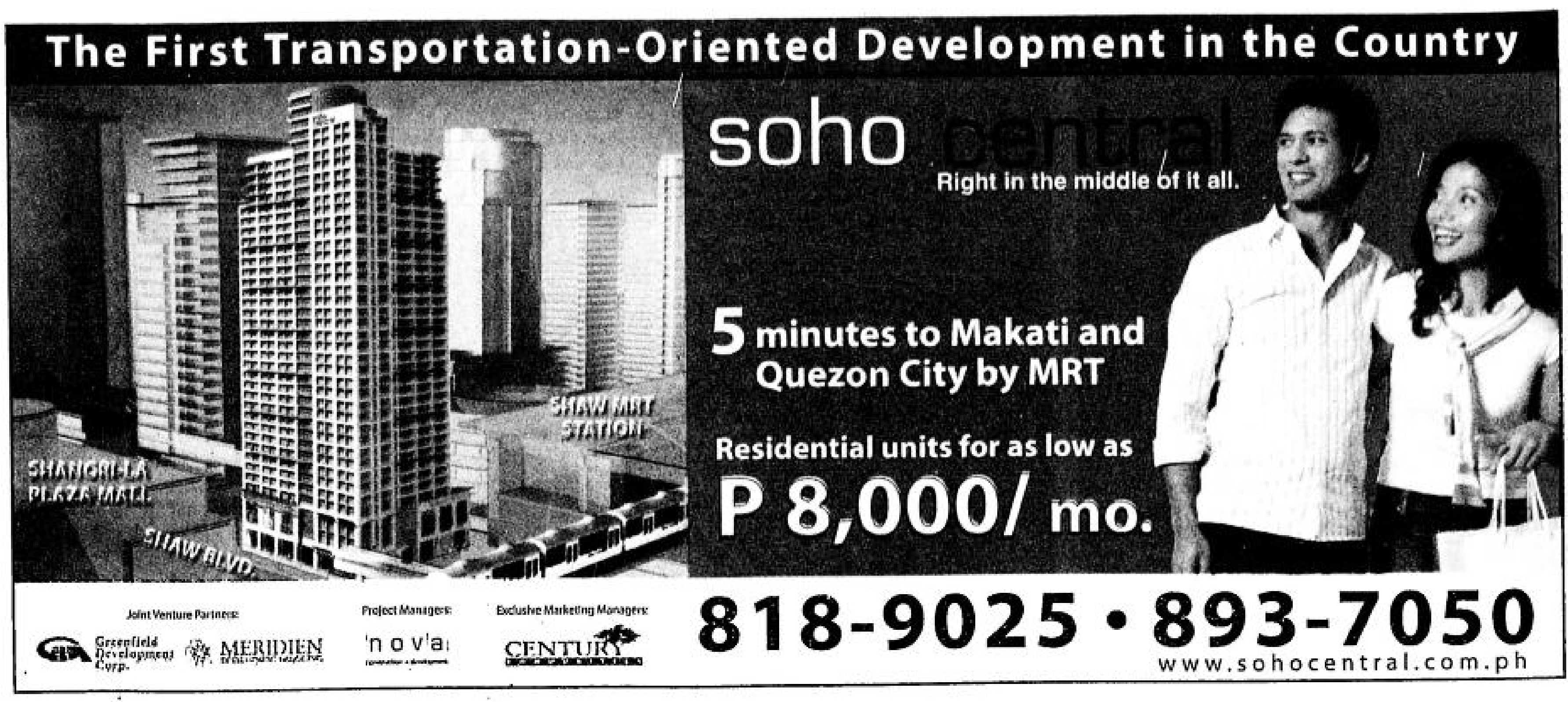
A Palace source said yesterday the spiritual retreat will be held at Bahay Pangarap in the Palace compound from 2 to 7 p.m.

Originally, the plan was to hold the retreat on March 23 in Baguio City, according to the source.

But in a radio interview, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye confirmed the holding of the retreat on Holy Tuesday but declined to say where it would be held.

Bunye said the retreat was for the President and Cabinet members who wanted to attend it.

"This (retreat) is voluntary," he said in an interview over dzRB, noting that the practice had been observed by the Palace for two years now. *Christine O. Avendaño*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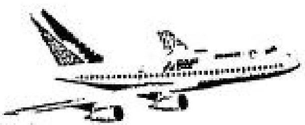

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RP wins tourism prize

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES won the "Best Booth Award" in the recently concluded Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) in Guangdong province, China, tourism officials revealed.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, who headed the 36-man Philippine delegation to the fair, described the award as "a triumph for the whole Philippine tourism industry," saying it was the result of the "collaboration and synergy" of the team's government and private components.

Bearing the DOT's new marketing slogan for the Chinese market, "Wow Philippines! My Holiday Paradise," the Philippine booth bested 27 other countries' exhibits, being hailed as the country with the best "beach holiday concept" and the best marketing effort.

An estimated 115,000 travel professionals and visitors trooped to the fair, which was held at the Guangzhou International Convention and Exhibition Center on March 3-4.

The GITF was held simultaneously with the First China International Online Travel Fair.

Durano thanked Philippine consul general in Guangzhou Erlinda Gavino and her staff for helping organize and initiate activities that drew visitors to the Philippine pavilion.

The DOT chief said the Philippine team engaged in an aggressive "marketing blitz" during the travel fair.

The team's private sector members forged "guanxi" or personal relationships with their Chinese counterparts, closing business deals, providing information on Philippine beach destinations, and even inviting them to visit the country this summer, Durano said.

The Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company performed cultural dances six times a day during the event.

While in Guangzhou, Durano and Philippine Ambassador to China Willy Gaa met with local travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers, airport and resort representatives, and the media to promote the country.

The secretary also discussed with the Chinese city's municipal tourism bureau director Li Wen Yao possible joint projects to strengthen and increase tourism between the Philippines and China.

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'THE GUY' REMEMBERED
Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and his sister, Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela, lay flowers at the tomb of their father, President Ramon Magsaysay, at the North Cemetery on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the latter's death in a Cebu plane crash on March 17, 1957. JOSEPH VIDAL, PRIB

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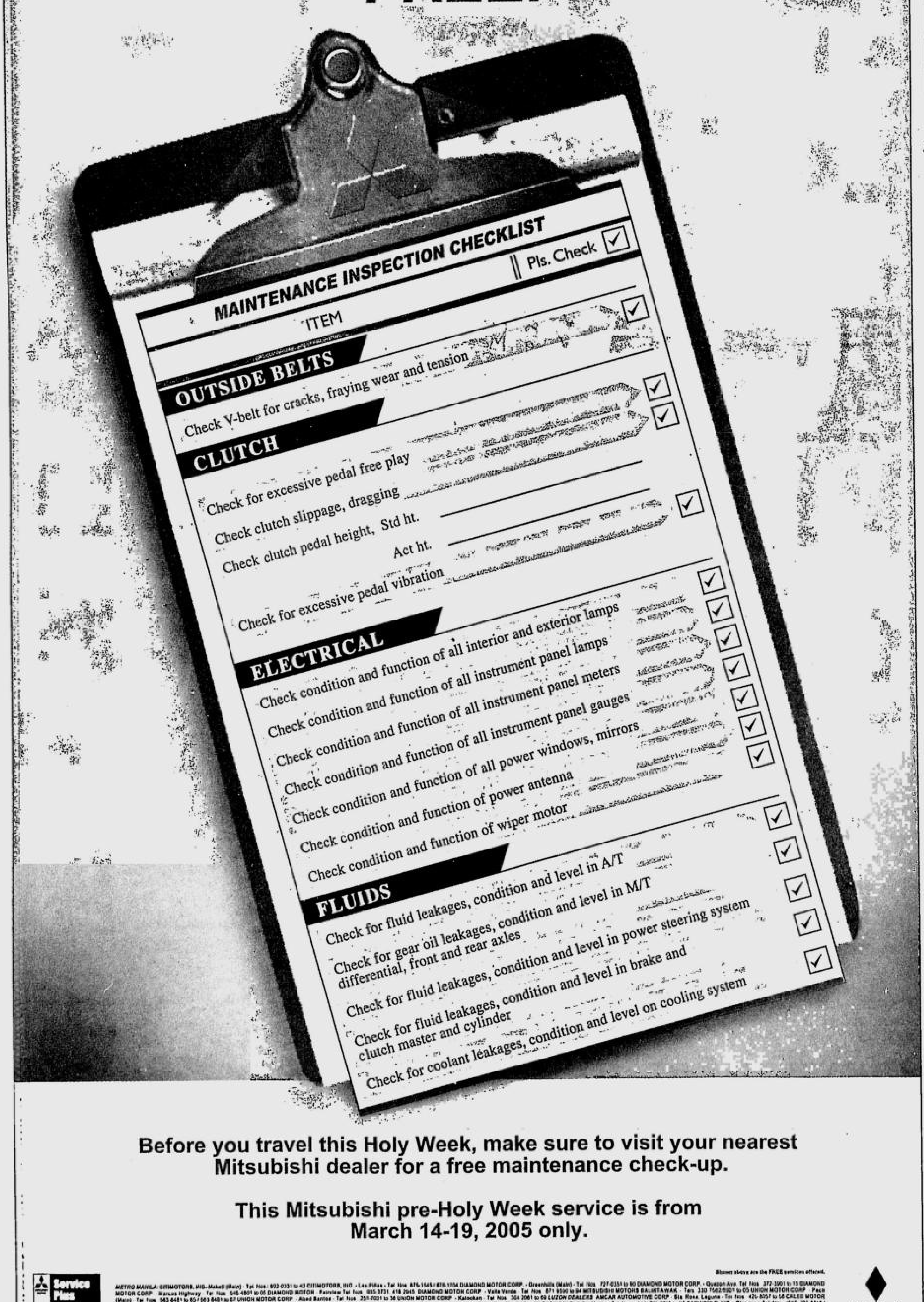
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Check condition and function of all instrument panel lamps ☑
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1st Reading:	Jer 20:10-13
Gospel:	John 10:31-42

The Jews picked up stones to throw at Jesus; so he said, "I have openly done many good works among you which the Father gave me to do. For which of these do you stone me?"

The Jews answered, "We are not stoning you for doing a good work but for insulting God; you are only a man and you make yourself God."

Then Jesus replied, "Is this not written in your Law: I said: you are gods? So those who received this word of God were called gods and the Scripture is always true. Then what should be said of the one anointed and sent into the world by the Father? Am I insulting God when I say: 'I am the Son of God?'

"If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do them, even if you have no faith in me, believe because of the works I do, and know that the Father is in me and I in the Father."

Again they tried to arrest him, but Jesus escaped from their hands. He went away again to the other side of the Jordan, to the place where John had baptized, and there he stayed.

Many people came to him and said, "John showed no miraculous signs, but he spoke of this man and everything he said was true." And many became believers in that place.

Commentary

Again and again they try to silence and kill Jesus by stoning him to death for his words of truth that confront and convict them religiously. He stands his grounds and asks them to name which of his good deeds they are killing him for. They say they are killing him for insulting God (their God) and for being only a man, who seeks to make himself God. Jesus declares: "I am the Son of God," even according to the old traditions and they are being stubborn, resisting the power of his works that his words proclaim. He lays down the line: if I'm not doing the works of my Father, then don't believe me. But they want to kill him all the same. Do we do the works of our Father, following in the footsteps of Jesus, our Lord? Or are we found all too often among those who condemn others, not because of the good they do (conveniently just ignoring that) but because we are stung to the heart by their words?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Sheriff should account for money received—The respondent committed an impropriety for which he should be administratively liable. Respondent admitted that he received from complainant redemption money after the auction sale took place. His allegation that he accepted the money upon complainant's insistence and suggestion that he accept the same not in his capacity as sheriff, would not absolve him from liability since he also admitted that complainant approached him because he was the one who auctioned the property. Respondent, by the very nature of his function, must at all times act above suspicion. All moneys accepted by a sheriff should be duly receipted for, otherwise, it would be in violation of the General Auditing and Accounting Rules. Respondent should not have accepted the money considering that by the very nature of things, the money could not be receipted for officially as it was not given to him in his official capacity. The respondent is guilty of misconduct in office. Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees are duty bound to serve with highest degree of responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency and shall remain accountable to the people. Persons involved in the administration of justice, ought to live up to the strictest standard of honesty, integrity in the public service. The conduct of every personnel connected with the courts should, at all times, be circumspect to preserve the integrity and dignity of our courts of justice. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Austria-Martinez, Second Division, Grayda vs Primo, Adm. Matter No. P-04-1897, November 1, 2004] BY R. B. VERA www.nokia.com.ph

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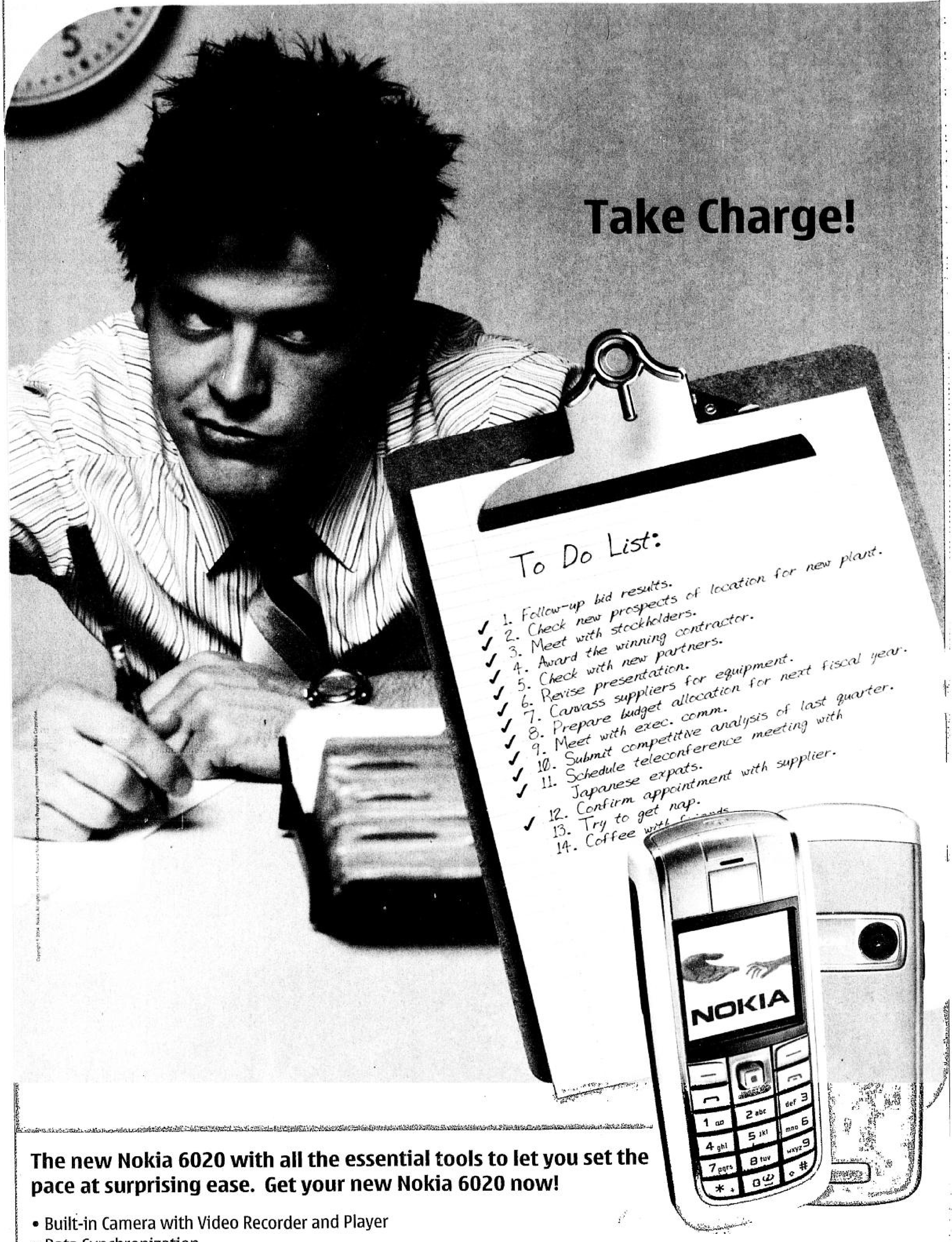
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8. Prepare budget allocation for next fiscal year.
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Sour spaghetti downs 85 kids

From page A1

fered from diarrhea after they ate spaghetti and fried chicken given to them at the daycare center in Barangay Murcia in Concepcion.

Dr. Ricardo Ramos, chief of the Tarlac Provincial Hospital (TPH) in Tarlac City, said 57 patients were taken to the hospital on Wednesday night. Another 28 patients, who were earlier taken to various hospitals in Concepcion and Capas towns, were transferred to the TPH yesterday morning.

The victims, most of them aged 3 to 7 years, were not in critical condition, Ramos said.

RUSSELL ARADOR/CONTRIBUTOR

THIS time, it's spaghetti that downed at least 85 children and some adults in Concepcion, Tarlac, after graduation rites for daycare pupils.

Spoiled food

"We have diagnosed that all of the patients suffered from staphylococcus infection, which is caused by microbes usually found in spoiled food," he said.

In Maasin City, eight elementary pupils were brought to the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) hospital after eating the seeds of a local herb known as "*tuba-tuba*" which they picked on their way home.

Ordoña said Crisanta Santos, who cooked the food at the daycare center, had been invited for questioning by DOH doctors.

Initial information gathered by the DOH team showed that the spaghetti was cooked at 2 p.m. "(Some) ate the food at home between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m." Ordoña said.

At around 10 p.m., Murcia barangay chair Bartolome Santos began receiving complaints and requests for help from the parents. The children were taken to various hospitals starting 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

At least 52 children were confined at the TPH after they complained of stomach ache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. At least four mothers and a father also fell sick after they ate the leftovers that their children took home.

Delicious but sour

Three children were taken to the Central Luzon Doctors' Hospital while several others were confined at the Concepcion District Hospital.

One of the victims, Sally Yumul, 32, said some parents and children ate the spaghetti at around 5 p.m. and experienced symptoms of food poisoning after at least five hours.

Her 7-year-old son, Reyson, and his cousin, 6-year-old Rufa Mae Yumul, were also taken to the TPH.

"The spaghetti seemed spoiled, but it was still delicious so we decided to continue eating. Others said the sour taste could have come from the sauce," Yumul said in Filipino.

Lab tests

Ordoña said the DOH team had taken samples of the spaghetti for laboratory testing at the DOH research institute in Manila.

He said the tests would try to find out if the mass food poisoning, the first reported in the region this year, was due to unsanitary preparations, fecal contamination, water-borne virus or other reasons.

In Southern Leyte, eight pupils of the Badiang Elementary School in Maasin were confined at the hospital early evening of Wednesday after they vomited and suffered from diarrhea.

"They were poisoned after eating seeds of a local herbal plant," said Lourse Ortega, administrator of the IPHO.

The victims remained hospitalized yesterday. Ordoña said they might be released today.

Cure for itchiness

He said the pupils were on their way home when they saw the fruits of the *tuba-tuba* and ate them, believing that these were edible.

Tuba-tuba (*Barringtonia racemosa blume*) is an evergreen tree with leaves resembling that of a gmelina. It grows practically everywhere in Southern Leyte.

The leaves and seeds of the *tuba-tuba* are known to cure itchiness. It bears round fruits that turn yellow when ripe. The fruits are, however, poisonous.

In July 2004, 52 pupils of the Cabatangan Elementary School in Zamboanga City were hospitalized after eating seeds of the *tuba-tuba*.

Resin poisoning

Dr. Roger Agbulos, Zamboanga City's health officer, had said the children suffered from resin poisoning.

Dr. Ben Caranay of the Zamboanga City Medical Center was also quoted as saying that eating the poisonous seeds could lead to complications, such as gastrointestinal bleeding, seizure, vomiting, convulsions and even death if not properly treated.

The latest incidents came on the heels of a wide-scale food poisoning last week in Mabini town in Bohol, where 27 schoolchildren died after eating fried cassava. Health officials said the root crop was contaminated with pesticide. *(Story on Page A3.)* *Russell Arador, Tonette Orejas and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Solar power lights up Eternal Flame of freedom

From page A1

The state-of-the-art system was dedicated early this month by the Corregidor Foundation and the Filipino-American Memorial Endowment Inc. (FAME), and has since cast the monument in full brilliance from dusk till dawn.

The solar-lit monument is a large steel sculpture symbolizing the flame of freedom burning eternally. Erected on a raised platform above a reflecting pool, it is located behind the Pacific War Memorial Dome of Peace amid the island's memorial complex. Several monuments stand on the island at Topside located on the west end of the tadpole-shaped island.

The complex built by the US government was completed in 1968. The monuments are reminders of the memorable battle fought there in 1942 and its liberation in 1945. Among the most notable is the Monument of the Eternal Flame.

Designed by Aristides Dimetrios, the sculpture commemorates the sacrifices and the heroic struggle by the Philippines and the United States to preserve freedom for future generations.

"The silent, reliable quality of solar power maintains the solemnity of the site, while preserving the environmental integrity of the entire island," said Lt. Col. Artemio Matibag of the Corregidor Foundation.

Prohibitive cost

Despite original provision for floodlighting the monument, this feature was never implemented. The cost of power generation on the island for such proved prohibitive for the budget of the Corregidor Foundation Inc.

To light up the Eternal Flame Monument had been long the dream of the foundation, particularly the late Col. Alfred Xeres-Burgos, a Bataan veteran, and the members of FAME, which assists the CFI in its projects.

The system set up at the monument uses 20-percent efficient silicon solar panels manufactured in the Philippines by SunPower Corp., a subsidiary of Cypress Semiconductor Corp., a US-based maker of high-performance silicon devices.

Electric power generated through three 200-watt solar panels is stored in batteries beneath the base of the sculpture and concealed from visitors so as not to mar the site's aesthetics.

The solar powered lighting project was also supported by the Department of Energy and U-Freight Philippines.

Symbol of freedom

"I see these solar powered lights as a symbol of the freedom won here 60 years ago," said FAME first vice president Leslie Ann Murray, who was a 3-year-old girl when she and her American parents were imprisoned by the Japanese along with other foreigners in Manila during the war.

Formed in 1986 under the auspices of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, FAME is an organization dedicated to the preservation of WWII memorials in the country, especially for the youth who know next to nothing about the war.

Among its ongoing projects is the replacement of lost "Death March" markers from Bataan to Tarlac.

On March 2, 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur recaptured "The Rock" after three years of Japanese control, with the landing of the 503rd US Parachute Regimental Combat Team.

Today, the tranquil island is a tourist attraction dotted by ruins, shrines and markers, and a pilgrimage site for the men and women who dared defy the Japanese invaders. *With a report from Joan Orendain*

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Solon says Filipinos ready for divorce

By Philip C. Tubeza

PARTY-LIST Rep. Liza Maza struck the first blow for "Pinoy-style" divorce by filing a bill in Congress yesterday to legalize the dissolution of marriages.

But Maza, a member of the militant Gabriela women's group, anticipated criticism by saying that the law that she proposed would not countenance quickie divorces.

"We will not have Filipino couples do a Britney Spears with marriages getting annulled in less than 24 hours after the ceremony...We will have safeguards against abuses. Divorce will be seen as the last resort of those in unhappy and abusive marriages," she said.

Maza said Philippine society was now ready for divorce and her bill would provide for enough safeguards to ensure that the institutions of marriage and the family were not destroyed.

"Let us keep an open mind. What we are proposing is divorce, Pinoy-style. We will take into consideration not just the need for divorce as an option. This proposal considers our culture, religions and traditions that give importance to the sanctity of Filipino marriage and the family," Maza said.

Under Maza's proposed House Bill No. 4016, couples may apply for divorce if they had been separated for five years and had been legally separated for two years.

Grounds for legal separation—like homosexuality, drug addiction and sexual perversion or infidelity—may apply when these have caused the "irreparable" breakdown of the marriage.

"Psychological incapacity" and "irreconcilable differences" that lead to the irreparable breakdown of the marriage are also recognized as grounds for divorce.

"The Philippines and Malta are the only two remaining countries in the world without a divorce law. This bill is being introduced based on indications that Philippine society is ready for the legalization of divorce," Maza said.

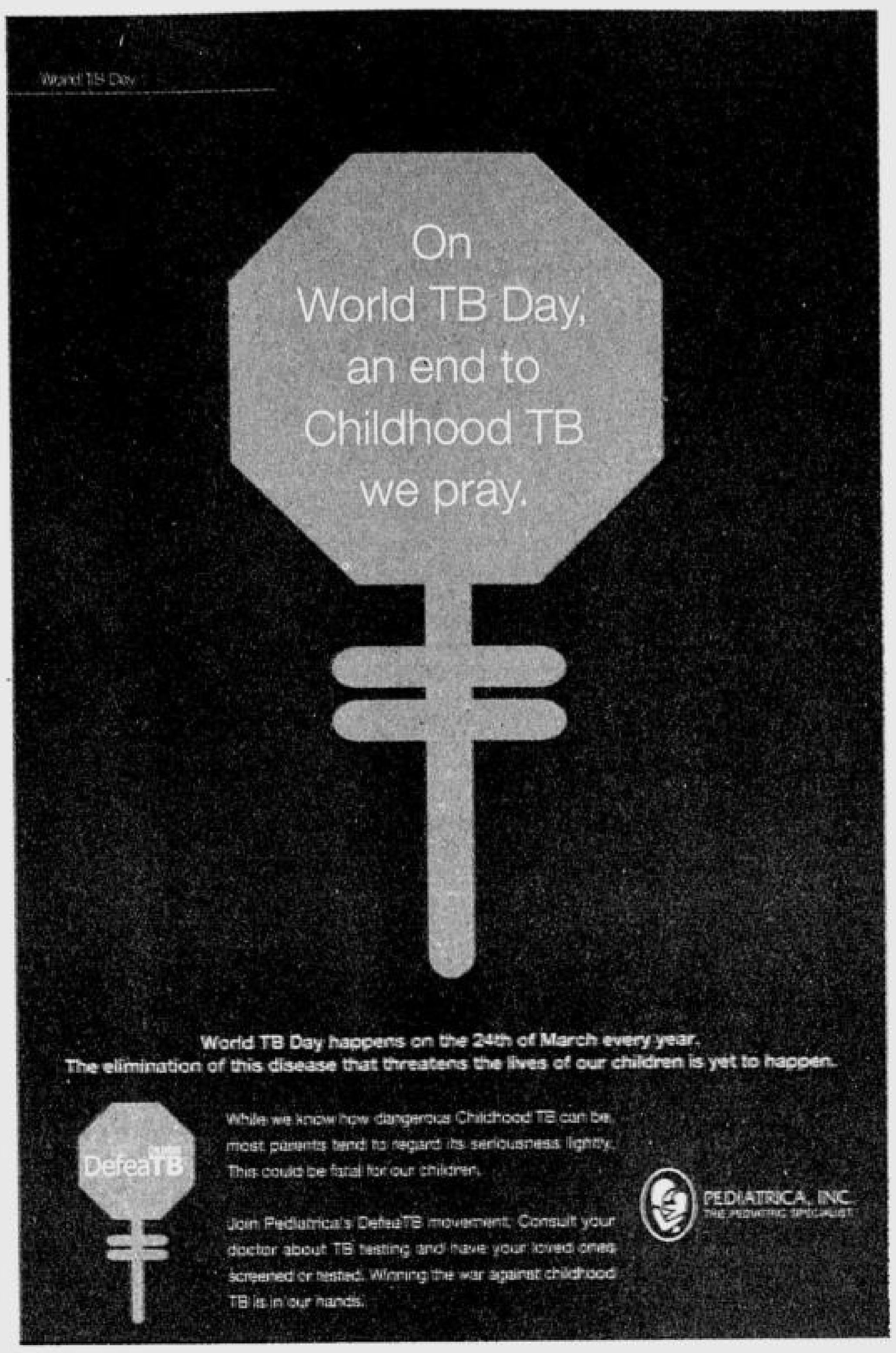
"The sanctity of marriage is not based on the number of marriages existing but on the quality of marital relationships. When a marriage is no longer viable, divorce should be an option," she said.

Maza said the pervasive influence of the Catholic Church would ensure that there won't be a runaway divorce rate in the country.

"With the preponderance of the Catholic faith in the Philippines, the fear that divorce will erode personal values on marriage appears unfounded," Maza said.

She noted that Italy and Spain, two Catholic countries where divorce is allowed, had low divorce rates.

She argued for divorce being allowed in the Philippines as legal separation does not give estranged couples the right to remarry, while annulments were expensive and not accessible to many couples.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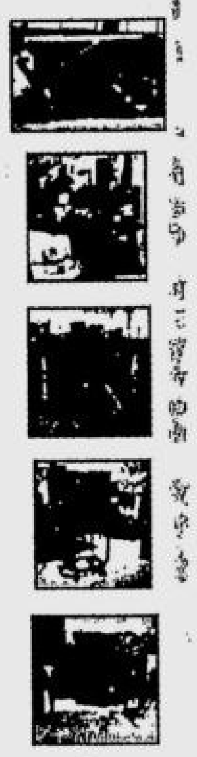

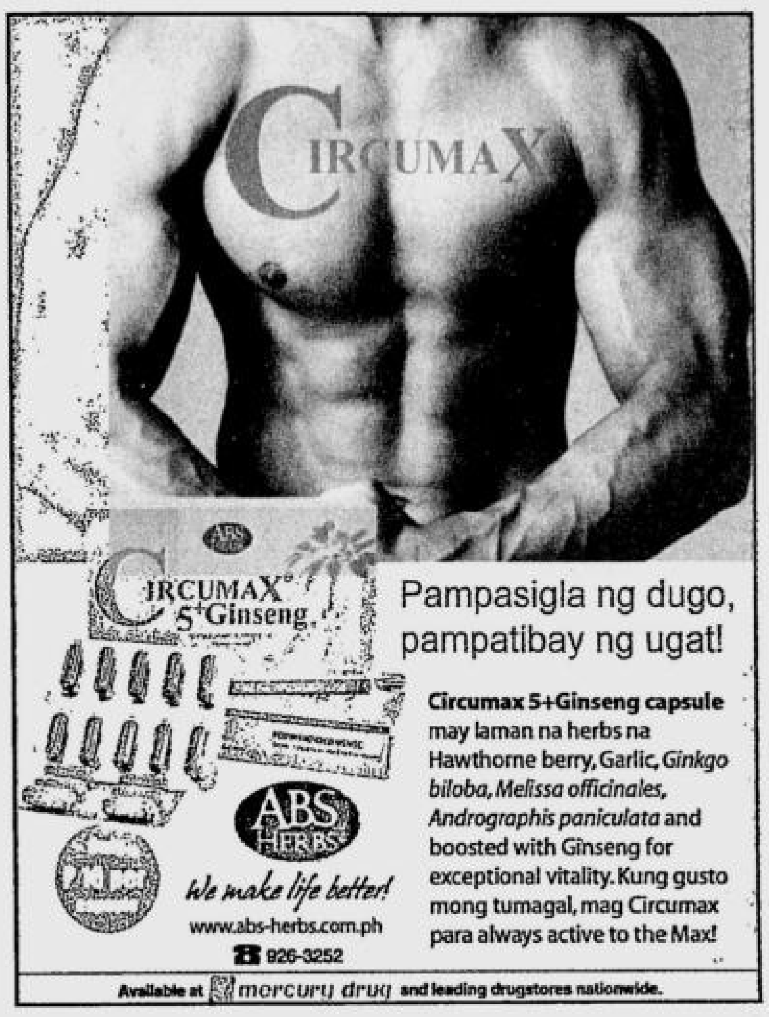

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Ping: Malice behind news on aide

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. PANFILO "Ping" Lacson said yesterday the disclosure on the reported arrest of fugitive former police Supt. Michael Ray Aquino in the United States was meant to pressure him to endorse the confirmation of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Lacson said he detected malice on the part of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice in releasing to media the purported arrest in New York City of Aquino, his close associate when he was national police chief.

Lacson chairs the committee on justice, a standing committee of the Commission on Appointments that will conduct hearings on the confirmation of Gonzalez, whose department oversees the operations of the NBI.

"I can see no other motive for breaking old information to media," Lacson said.

Gonzalez, however, denied Lacson's accusation.

"I had nothing to do with that because the one who asked for cancellation of his (Aquino's) passport was (former Justice Secretary Hernando) Nani Perez," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER. "His (Lacson's) impression is totally wrong."

Lacson claimed that the NBI's report was even erroneous because it said that Aquino had been arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The senator said his former aide was being held by US immigration authorities.

AQUINO

"The NBI (has malice) because at the time that the (immigration service of the US) is conducting an investigation, why should you blow up the issue?" Lacson said.

The senator also bewailed Aquino's being linked to him.

"And why are they linking him to me when I had so many subordinates? Why are they connecting him to me? My name is being mentioned. Why?" Lacson said.

He said his control over Aquino and another ex-police superintendent, Cesar Mancao, had ceased the moment he left the Philippine National Police. Mancao was Lacson's aide at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which he once headed.

He said he did not have any communication with Aquino and Mancao since they left the country.

Gonzalez said he just inherited the case against Aquino and Mancao, suspects in the murders of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, in 2000.

"Senator Lacson can ask his people to check if I opened the case. I never touched it," Gonzalez said.

But Gonzalez said he had asked prosecutors to file a motion to resolve Aquino's appeal with the Supreme Court to pave the way for the issuance of a warrant of arrest should the former police official be deported to the country.

Defensor suspends waste-dumping firm

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday suspended the operations of a waste treatment plant in Angono, Rizal, which was reported to be dumping hazardous waste and chemicals into Laguna de Bay.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor ordered the temporary closure of March and June Environmental Management Corp. for violating its environmental compliance certificate and Republic Act No. 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act.

"The ECC requires that all hazardous wastes collected must not only be properly labeled but also be covered and stored properly. Exposing these to the elements poses danger not only to the immediate environment but also to the workers and communities surrounding the facility," Defensor said in a statement yesterday.

The DENR chief also directed a stop to the issuance of permits to collect and deliver hazardous wastes to March and June.

Bringing along the media, Defensor inspected the firm's facility in Barangay San Isidro in Angono and found several unlabeled drums containing hazardous wastes and expired medicines that had not been properly stored.

Two March and June employees reported that the firm usually mixed the hazardous chemicals with the soil and cemented this, or dumped the toxic waste into a nearby river that went out to Laguna de Bay.

The DENR is preparing to file criminal charges against March and June owner Angelito Roan, who allegedly also maintains a toxic waste storage facility in Barangay Amuyong 3 in Mabitac, Laguna, without a permit to operate.

Environment officials also inspected the Mabitac facility on Wednesday and found that the company used at least five areas as dumping ground for toxic wastes collected from various industrial companies.

Some of the wastes found were corrosive liquids, asbestos, sludge and expired medicines, and consumer products.

Roan would be fined and could face up to 12 years in prison if found guilty of violating RA 6969.

Gov't fails to stop Chingkoe

GOVERNMENT prosecutors failed to prevent businessman Faustino Chingkoe from leaving the country despite the charges he is facing before the Sandiganbayan in connection with a P5.3-billion tax credit scam.

Chingkoe, the head of the Chingkoe group of companies, flew to Hong Kong on Wednesday morning on board Cathay Pacific flight 912 for a connecting flight to the United States and Canada.

Despite the opposition of state prosecutors, the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division, chaired by Associate Justice Gregory Ong, on March 9 granted Chingkoe's petition to travel to Hong Kong, the United States and Canada from March 16 to April 16, subject to certain conditions.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the government had no choice but to wait for Chingkoe to return.

But he doubted that Chingkoe—who, if convicted, would be forced to pay back P131 million to the government—would return as his wife and children were already in Canada although the government was seeking their extradition.

Among the conditions required by the court for allowing Chingkoe to leave were that he strictly adhere to his declared itinerary and post a P2.5-million travel bond.

The Fourth Division also required Chingkoe to report to the court within five days after returning to the country.

Chingkoe was previously allowed by the court to go to Canada for his daughter's graduation.

In an urgent motion for the court to reconsider its decision to allow Chingkoe to leave, assistant special prosecutor Elvira Chua argued that Chingkoe was a flight risk noting that he was a holder of Canadian, Fijian, Korean and Philippine passports. *Nelson F. Flores*

Land exec charged

ELEVEN Land Registration Authority employees yesterday filed graft charges against the agency administrator for allegedly appointing himself chair of a bidding committee and receiving additional compensation.

In a complaint filed with the Office of the Ombudsman, the employees alleged that LRA Administrator Benedicto Ulep appointed himself head of the agency's bidding and awards committee through the creation of the project management committee.

The employees claimed Ulep also named himself chief of the PMC, which supervises the activities of the BAC.

As head of the PMC, the complaint said, Ulep was able to receive additional monthly honoraria amounting to P7,218.75, or 25 percent of his actual income as LRA administrator.

According to the employees, Ulep violated Section 11 of the Government Procurement Reform Act, which provides that "Each procuring entity shall establish a single BAC for its procurement." *Nelson F. Flores*

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Colonel would have gotten away with it if not for his wife

From page A1

der investigation for possible court-martial for a questionable deal four years ago.

Lagnada is now chief of the Logistics Management Division, which decides what and how much in supplies to procure each year. But when he was still an Army logistics officer in 2000, he helped his wife, Haydie Demitita-Lagnada, corner a contract to supply P10.7 million worth of equipment for an Army hospital.

According to investigators, Lagnada violated a department memo that bars members of a military officer's family up to the fourth degree from doing business with the Armed Forces.

He would have gotten away with it had it not been for his wife, the investigation showed.

As it turned out, Haydie merely used the money and the business company of supplier Nelia Ayson to bag the contract.

Ayson did not complain because Haydie initially turned over the Army's check payments to her. She only did so when Haydie reportedly ran off with the P2.7-million balance of the payment in December 2003.

Investigators said two Army finance officers had authorized the highly irregular release to Haydie of the six checks meant for Ayson.

Along with Lagnada, Lt. Col. Jessie Dosado, chief of the Materiel and Services Procurement Center (MSPC) under the Army Support Command, and Maj. Reinhart Bautista, chief disbursement officer of the Army Finance Center, are under investigation for court-martial.

Spare him

Upon investigation, Haydie admitted to having transacted with the MSPC, using Ayson's company only as a front, and receiving the six checks.

She reportedly pleaded with the investigators to spare her husband from any charges, claiming that he did not know of her transactions.

The investigators obviously did not buy her statement, and recommended court-martial for Lagnada, Dosado and Bautista.

Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff, relieved the three officers last Dec. 16 pending the investigation.

But Abu is now under pressure from a lawmaker to reinstate Lagnada, sources said.

According to the sources, Lagnada was relieved by Gen. Narciso Abaya, then AFP chief of staff, but was somehow reinstated to the post.

Lagnada belongs to Class 1984 of the Philippine Military Academy, and Dosado Class 1985.

The procurement system is the chief source of corruption in the military.

The AFP has been shaken lately by high-profile graft cases among top officials led by former comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.).

Abu recently did away with the graft-ridden Logistics Command (Logcom) to get rid of one layer of corruption.

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'Genyo' offers e-learning kit for HS studes

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Called Genyo, the software is part of an e-learning package called iDiwa e3 Learning Program developed by the Diwa Asia Publishing Group. It follows the prescribed curriculum of the Department of Education.

Jose Maria Policarpio, vice president of Diwa Learning Systems Inc., said Genyo suits the changing requirements of students. "They need new modes of instructions that are more interactive and will allow students to explore and be more creative," Policarpio said.

Policarpio said the modules in the software can also be enhanced or customized by teachers to suit their lesson plans.

The publishing group is one of the country's leading publishers of textbooks and educational magazines such as Bato Balani and Salaguinto. Policarpio said the product was developed based on the findings that students retain 20 percent of what they see, 30 percent of what they hear, 50 percent of what they see and hear, and 80 percent of what they see, hear and do simultaneously.

Some 13 private high schools in Metro Manila and nearby provinces have subscribed to the Genyo program.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

2 YEARS OF IRAQ

US rethinks war strategy

WASHINGTON—Still battling insurgents two years after entering Iraq, the US military is being forced to rethink a strategy of winning quick wars with high tech forces that failed to anticipate such a long conflict.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld this month gave the military four "core" problems to tackle as it undertakes a major review of military capabilities. At the top of his list was building "strategic partnerships" with other countries, defense officials said.

"We want to engage before there is some type of a conflict, and prevent conflicts from becoming wars," one official said. "That is a different mindset in fighting and winning our nation's wars."

It's a shift born of necessity: so many US ground forces are tied down in Iraq that the US military would be hard-pressed to come up with the troops to fight a second major ground war, as the current strategy calls for, analysts say.

Military leaders insist the United States can respond quickly to contingencies in other parts of the world.

They emphasize that US air and naval power, not American ground forces, are the key elements of deterrence in flash points from Iran to North Korea and Taiwan.

But with the Pentagon facing planning contingencies across "an arc of instability" from the eastern Mediterranean to the Gulf to east Asia, the United States is more likely to need allies over the next 15 years than during the past 15, said Andrew Krepinevich.

"When you look at current deployments then what you see is US forces are really quite overstretched right now, especially the ground forces," said Krepinevich, who heads a Washington think tank that specializes in military strategy.

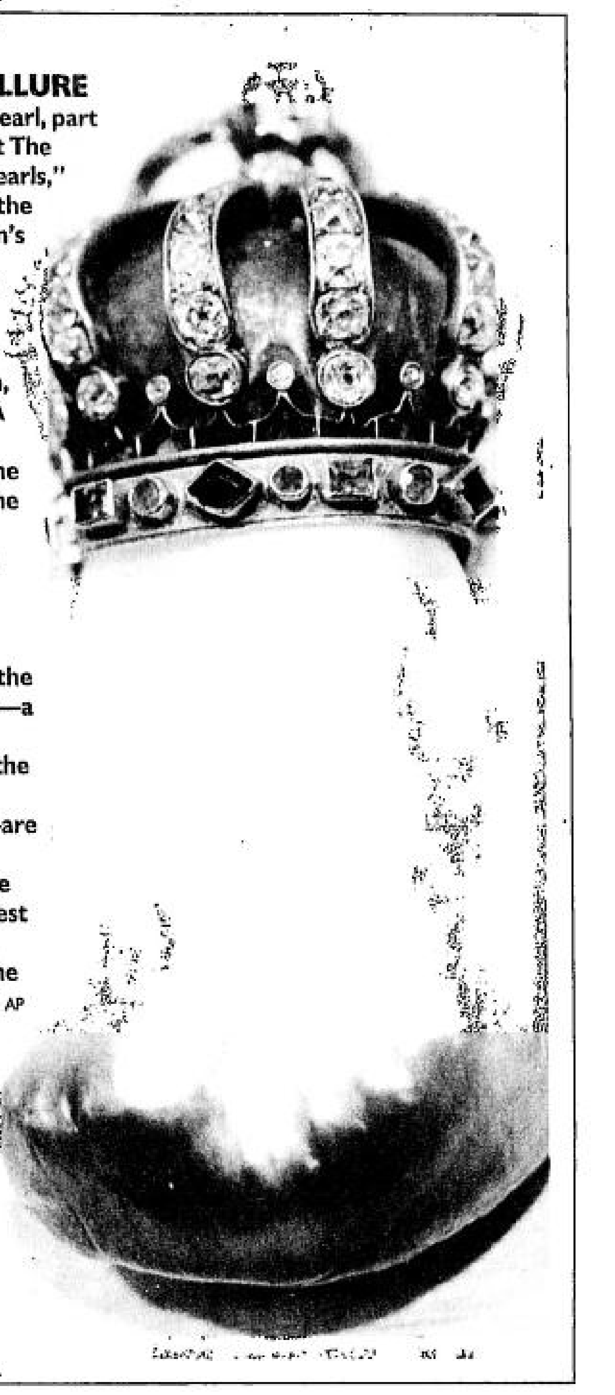
He sees the Pentagon revamping Cold War-era alliances and giving greater priority to security ties with countries in high-risk areas that have large pools of military manpower to draw from.

Australia, Japan, Singapore, possibly the Philippines, India, Turkey and Israel are among the countries whose importance may grow, he said. Nato, once supreme among US military alliances, is likely to be less relevant, he said.

The last major strategy review four years ago concluded that US forces should be capable of swiftly beating enemies in two major overlapping wars and removing the regime in at least one of them.

It also envisioned a force capable of seizing the initiative in 10 days, achieving limited military objectives in 30 days and being ready to move to another part of the world in another 30 days.

In Iraq, the US military put on a brilliant demonstration of that target, capturing Baghdad and toppling the regime of Saddam Hussein in less than a month. *AFP*



PEARL ALLURE The Hope Pearl, part of an exhibit The "Allure of Pearls," is shown at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, March 16. A pearl once owned by the builder of the Taj Mahal, another on loan from actress Elizabeth Taylor, and the Hope Pearl—a former partner to the Hope Diamond—are among a dozen of the world's rarest pearls on display in the exhibit. AP

2 Sikhs cleared over worst bombing of civilian plane

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—A Canadian judge cleared two Sikh activists on Wednesday of involvement in the 1985 bombing of an Air India jetliner over Ireland's Atlantic coast, history's deadliest bombing of a civilian airplane.

Shocked families of the 329 victims of the bombing called the ruling devastating and urged the Canadian government to establish a public inquiry into the crime and how it was investigated.

British Columbia Supreme Court Judge Ian Bruce Josephson found Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri not guilty of murder and conspiracy in connection with the bombing over the Atlantic as well as a related explosion at Tokyo's Narita airport that killed two people.

The victims' relatives wept in court as the judge read the verdicts following a 19-month trial. Malik, 58, and Bagri, 55, smiled at their families as the hearing ended.

"Oh, my God. Oh, my God," one of the victim's relatives cried to herself. The defendants' families smiled and hugged each other outside the court.

"I want to repeat publicly today what I have told the authorities numerous times since 1985, that I had absolutely no involvement in any of these criminal activities," Bagri said in a statement read outside the court by his daughter, Inderdeep Kaur Bagri.

Malik left the courthouse without commenting, but his family released a statement that expressed sympathy for the victims' relatives but said their anger should be directed at police and prosecutors.

Josephson, who heard 115 witnesses in one of the most complicated and costly cases in Canadian history, called the bombing "fanaticism at its basest and most inhumane level" and agreed the devices that exploded off the Irish coast and in Japan probably originated in Vancouver. *Reuters*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0582 Series of 2005

UN report urges action in forested conflict zones

ROME—Governments could save lives and money by better managing the world's forests—areas where conflict is common and armed groups can find shelter and income, said a UN report released Thursday.

More than 40 percent of the world's tropical forests are in countries that have seen wars over the last 20 years, a report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization says.

In a chapter of its biennial report on forests—for release at a Rome meeting of government ministers and international experts—the agency drew attention to the link between forests and conflict.

"The real reason for governments to take action is because it's very clear that with rather modest investments you could save governments huge amounts of money, lives and political problems," said David Kaimowitz, author of the chapter and director-general of the Center for International Forestry Research, based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

As well as creating the potential for conflict over valuable raw materials such as oil and diamonds, forests provide shelter and food for fighters, the report said.

Also, "it is in the forest where one often finds poor, isolated populations who are either ignored or mistreated and may need little encouragement to take up arms," said Hosny El-Lakany, FAO's assistant director general for forestry.

"Governments need to take bold steps to recognize the political, cultural and territorial rights of ethnic minorities and others living in forested regions," the report said. It urged governments to be particularly vigilant in post-conflict situations, when forests risk being destroyed for profit or providing a haven to armed groups who are likely to restart fighting.

At present, countries including Liberia and Sudan risk slipping back into conflicts if forest areas are not managed better, Kaimowitz contended.

On an international level, governments should use sanctions that prevent armed groups profiting from the sale of timber—a move that was considered effective against timber exports from Cambodia in the mid-1990's and more recently from Liberia. *AP*

US actor Robert Blake found not guilty of murdering wife

BLAKE reacts after hearing verdict. AP

LOS ANGELES—A jury found actor Robert Blake not guilty on Wednesday of the 2001 murder of his estranged wife and also acquitted the former "Baretta" star of soliciting a former stuntman to have her killed.

Blake, 71, hugged his lawyer, heaved a deep sigh of relief and trembled in his seat as the jury's verdict was read after eight days of deliberation, capping a three-month-long trial.

The Los Angeles County Superior Court jury said it was deadlocked 11-to-1 on a second count of solicitation of murder charging Blake with asking another retired stuntman friend to kill his spouse. The judge then dismissed that charge.

Blake had been charged with shooting to death his wife of six months, Bonny Lee Bakley, 44, in his car outside a Los Angeles-area restaurant where they had just dined in May 2001.

He faced life in prison without parole if found guilty.

Blake has said his wife was gunned down by an unknown assailant as she waited in his parked car near their favorite restaurant.

He shook with emotion as the verdict was read, burying his head in his hands and seeming to sob. Bakley's adult daughter, Holly, wept silently as Blake was cleared and allowed to walk free from the court.

The case against Blake was based largely on circumstantial evidence, and the trial was marked by lengthy delays, changes of lawyers and suggestions he was targeted because of his celebrity.

Prosecutors argued Blake despised Bakley, who was described in court by both sides as a career con artist, and that he shot her himself after giving up on seeking others to kill her in order to gain custody of the couple's then-infant daughter, Rosie. *Reuters*

Sex industry complicates Japan crackdown on human trafficking

By Natalie Obiko Pearson

TOKYO—Monica's life as a Tokyo prostitute was her own choice. Like thousands of others over the past two decades, she took what she thought was a good offer—lucrative work in Japan's multibillion-dollar sex industry.

But Monica had no idea of what awaits foreign prostitutes in Japan: debt bondage, sometimes violent working conditions, so-called fines imposed by pimps or brothel owners for any attempt to escape, and an utter lack of help from authorities.

"The reality is different once you arrive—it's much harder than you ever imagined," says Monica, 31, a Colombian single mother who still works the Tokyo streets. She spoke on condition she only be identified by her first name.

The thousands of cases like Monica's are at the center of a mounting crackdown on human trafficking in Japan following the country's placement on a US watchlist last year. Japan was again cited for trafficking in a US human rights report last month.

Affluence and a lack of laws against sex trafficking have combined to make Japan one of the world's top destinations for women like Monica.

In the popular imagination, human trafficking involves women who are kidnapped or otherwise tricked into working as prostitutes. But experts say such cases are rare in Japan. More common are women who come voluntarily but encounter slave-like conditions—and trapping debts—on arrival.

Root cause

"The Japanese human trafficking problem is the sex industry," said Kazuo Inoue, an opposition Democratic Party lawmaker and anti-trafficking activist who says a crackdown also needs to address the root cause—demand stoked by loosely regulated red-light districts.

Tokyo is moving to clean up its act. The government is expected to pass a law this spring to make trafficking of foreign victims into Japan a criminal offense for the first time. Authorities also have moved to tighten visa requirements for "entertainers"—suspected to be legal cover for foreign sex workers.

"We are in the process of drawing up the necessary measures to effectively battle this," said Masaru Sakamoto from the Cabinet office overseeing a government antitrafficking plan released in December. "I think once those are in place, the fruits of our efforts will become more evident."

Critics, however, are still waiting to see if Japan is also serious about protecting victims. Japan has long treated women like Monica as accomplices to the traffickers who bring them here, deserving of few rights as sex workers and illegal migrants.

Monica was a single mother—she had her daughter at 13—from a poor, violent barrio of Bogota, Colombia, when she was approached by a broker with the offer of sex work in Japan, something that would pay enough to buy her daughter a better future back home in Colombia.

"No one comes because they want to do this work. But we choose to because there's no better option. We want to get out—at any cost," said the petite redhead dressed modestly at a cafe one late night in Shinjuku near one of Tokyo's busiest red-light districts.

After arriving in 1993, Monica was slapped with a debt of 5 million yen ($48,000; euro36,000)—much larger than she'd been led to believe—and warned of reprisals against her family if she tried to escape. Minor infringements, including illness, can inflate that debt, she said, and women suffer a brutal physical toll in serving dozens of customers a week, with no days off, to get rid of the debt.

She was able to repay her debt in several months since Japan's economy was then faring better. But she said others now aren't as lucky, with some finding themselves in bondage for more than a year amid ever-increasing fines for various infringements.

1 million women

Statistics on women trafficked here are hard to get. Activists estimate more than 1 million may have come since the early 1980s. The Switzerland-based International Organization for Migration calculates that Japan's sex industry hosts about 150,000 foreign workers today.

The Philippines, Colombia and Thailand are the top source countries, says a recent report by the International Labor Organization's Japan office, although anecdotal evidence on the street points to a surging number of Russians, Koreans and Chinese as well.

The sex industry has long been treated with leniency here: red-light districts have openly thrived from the patronage of legitimate businesses.

Critics have repeatedly alleged ties between traffickers and law enforcement, from immigration officers taking bribes to allow prostitutes into the country on fake passports, to police who return escaped, abused sex workers to their captors. Those allegations are denied by the National Police Agency.

Kinsey Alden Dinan, a Columbia University researcher and trafficking expert, says the Japanese government has done little to safeguard sex workers' rights and well-being or ensure they have ways to exit the industry.

"When there's clearly a demand for these people to work in your country, you have an obligation to work out a system that they can do it in legally and safely," she says. "It's easier to deport them than to deal with them." *AP*

COURTING CONTROVERSY

Bush taps Wolfowitz to head World Bank

WOLFOWITZ

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush risked inflaming global opinion Wednesday by putting forward his deeply controversial deputy defense secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, to become World Bank chief.

In a move that could chill the new thaw in transatlantic relations, Bush said he wanted Donald Rumsfeld's number two at the Pentagon to take over in a role that is central to global development.

Bush said he had already started telephoning foreign leaders to lobby for Wolfowitz, despite the neoconservative's divisive role as a prime architect of the war in Iraq.

The US president highlighted Wolfowitz's experience at the US state department and the Pentagon, and as a previous ambassador to Indonesia.

"Paul Wolfowitz is a proven leader and experienced diplomat, who will guide the World Bank effectively and honorably during a critical time in history—both for the Bank and the developing nations it supports," Bush said.

"He has devoted his career to advancing the cause of freedom. He is a person of compassion who believes deeply that lifting people out of poverty is critical to achieving that goal," he said.

Current World Bank president James Wolfensohn is to stand down this summer. Traditionally, the United States nominates the World Bank president and Europe the head of the International Monetary Fund.

But Bush's nomination of Wolfowitz threatens to put that transatlantic consensus to the test.

French President Jacques Chirac said Paris would examine the nomination "in the spirit of friendship" with the United States.

But French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said Wolfowitz's nomination was only a "proposal", despite the Bank job being in the gift of Washington.

"We're going to examine it with respect to his character... and eventually with respect to other candidates," he said at an EU meeting in Brussels.

Aside from Iraq, Wolfowitz has attracted global suspicion as a leading light of the neoconservative movement, which wants the United States to impose its vision of liberal democracy and free-market economics on others.

But the 61-year-old former academic sought to win over his detractors by declaring that he believed "deeply and passionately in the mission of the World Bank."

"The opportunity of working to lift a billion people who earn less than a dollar a day out of poverty and billions of others who live in circumstances of poverty, to give them a chance in life, is an exciting responsibility and a real challenge," he said.

But opponents said the choice of Wolfowitz was a worrying pointer for Bush's foreign-policy intentions coming just after the nomination of another arch-hawk, John Bolton, to be the US ambassador to the United Nations. *AFP*

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ISSN 0116-2642
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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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A question of martyrs

EDITORIAL

A FOREIGNER once held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf probably expressed what many Filipinos feel. Callie Strydom in South Africa said of Ghalib Andang, alias "Commander Robot": "He probably got the death he was seeking. I suppose in the end he got what was coming to him." Any pity for the fate of the Abu Sayyaf leaders killed in last Tuesday's storming of Camp Bagong Diwa is tempered by a recollection of their dark deeds.

This is a distinction, however, that ignores other realities that serve to overshadow the event. Those killed at Camp Bagong Diwa were buried yesterday in a manner that was intended to proclaim them as "martyrs" for Islam. Instead of being washed, the bodies of the 22 slain were left bathed in their own blood, anointed in the sanguinary proof of their martyrdom. For every "Commander Robot" or "Commander Kosovo" killed, there are cases such as that of Hadji Ahmad Opao, at 75 the oldest fatality and by all accounts, a man overdue for release on humanitarian grounds. He was said to be afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and was bedridden, and he died because, perhaps in an instinctive reversion to the warrior traditions of his youth, he got to his feet when the shooting started.

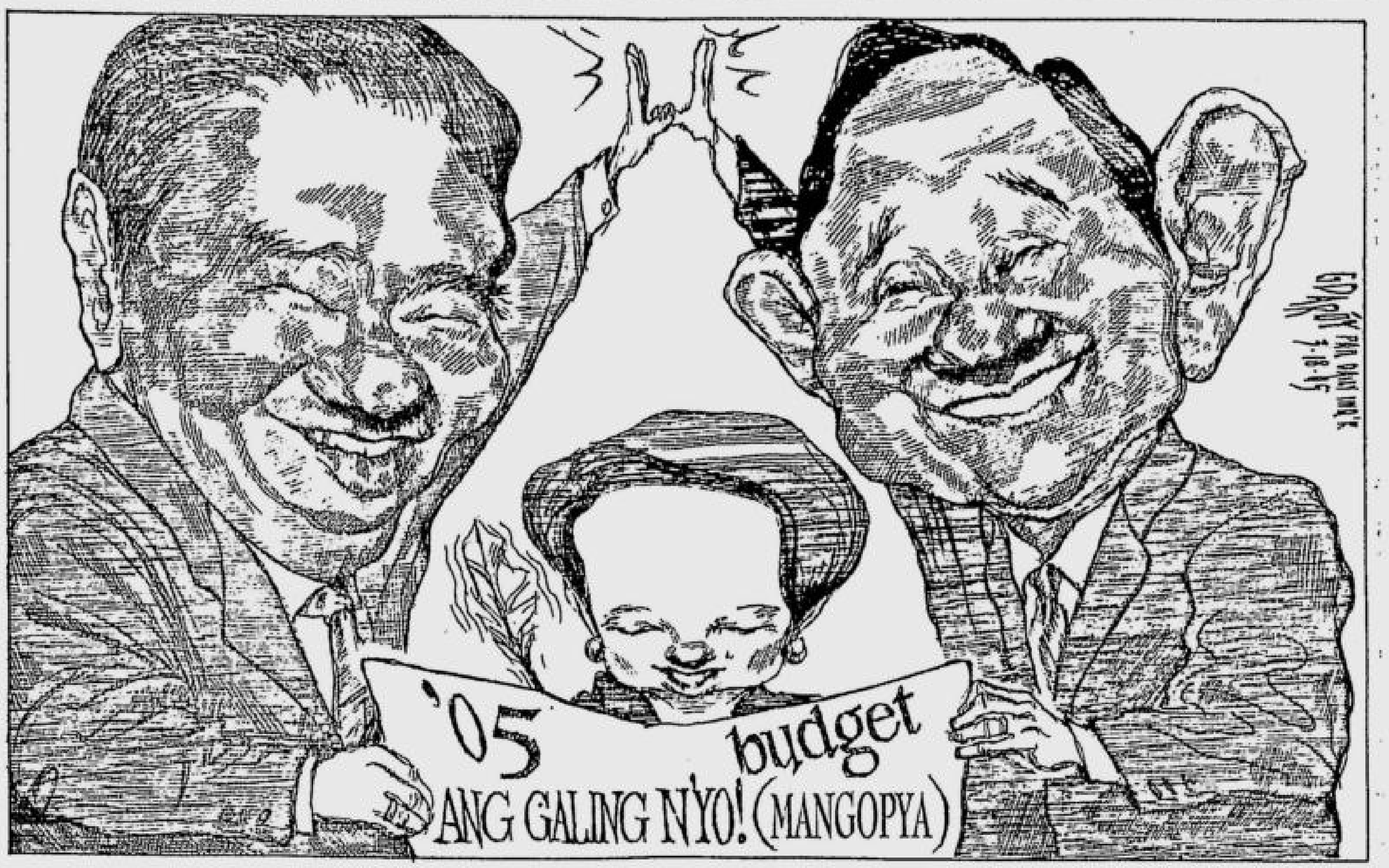
For many Muslim Filipinos, it is not the supposed poetic justice of a "Commander Kosovo's" death that will seize their imagination, it is the far more common and far sadder realities of the fate that befalls people like Hadji Ahmad Opao. The workaday experience of many Muslims is filled with false accusations, brutal imprisonment, rough and ready persecution masquerading as the justice of the Republic. Filipino Christians can surely understand why experiences and examples such as Opao's can turn even the deaths of notorious kidnappers and bandits (such as the Abu Sayyaf) into martyrdom.

Governor Parouk Hussein of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has tried to explain as much by pointing out that not everyone killed in Tuesday's assault were members of the Abu Sayyaf. There were those who got killed in the attack because they happened to be in jail on account of false charges made by their Muslim or Christian enemies or because of the slow and inefficient workings of our justice system. It is these cases that will resound, those deaths that will be mourned, those examples that will overshadow the deaths of known members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Of greatest concern now is the increasing criticism of Muslims by their Christian brethren for not speaking out more against the Abu Sayyaf, and for giving those killed the benefit of Islamic burial rites and of being mourned by the Muslim community. No one begrudges a Christian the burial rites of his religion, whatever his crime, and no one should criticize Muslims for burying their dead according to the rites of their faith. As for calling upon Muslims to provide a united front in criticizing the Abu Sayyaf, this ignores the larger and smaller dynamics of Muslim society in our country. Larger, because the Abu Sayyaf, for all its bloodthirsty abuses, is a manifestation of Christian policies of repression, neglect and exploitation in Mindanao, and smaller, because the ties of blood and family can eclipse all other considerations.

For now, the Abu Sayyaf continues to look like a winner: it now claims martyrs, and has planted the seeds of doubt in the minds of at least some who suspect a government rubout. Its members went out in a manner of their own choosing; they have been buried in a manner that inspires romance and admiration among their followers. The government is now faced with the Herculean task of trying to change public opinion not among Christians, whose biases at least make them somewhat impervious to romanticizing the Abu Sayyaf, but among Muslims, who are torn between admiring their obviously reckless courage, and the realization that in the face of Christian guns, there is no distinction between the bad Abu Sayyaf and elderly prisoners like Opao.

The only way to seize momentum is the hardest: to slowly, but surely, eliminate all doubts that those in jail deserve to be there, and aren't imprisoned because of bad luck, poverty, the enmity of others or, worst of all, their religion.



Greedy QC councilors want to hike realty taxes

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YOU think it's bad enough that prices of everything, including government fees, are going up? Wait, it's going to get worse, at least for those who live and do business in Quezon City.

Some councilors have filed a proposed ordinance to increase the real estate taxes from the present 15 percent to the maximum 20 percent for residential and to 50 percent for commercial properties. This is an outstanding example not only of greed and oppression by certain councilors but also of their trickery.

To follow procedural requirements, the council scheduled a public hearing on the proposal at 9 a.m. of March 9. But it sent out the notices to homeowners' associations also on March 9, at 9 a.m. That dirty trick was obviously to prevent many property owners from opposing the measure so that the councilors can say there was no opposition during the public hearing.

But there need not be any opposition to know that the proposed increases are unjustified and are just intended for the reelection of councilors. If passed this year, the increased taxes will be collected starting next year, in time for the councilors' projects to aid their 2007 reelection.

There are at least four good reasons why an increase in real estate taxes at this time is unjustified:

1. The QC government doesn't need the extra money. It is now the richest city in the country, as city treasurer Victor Endriga boasted in a press release. For the third straight year, he said, QC emerged as "the richest city in the country" with an income beating even Makati, the business capital, and Manila. Last year, QC had a total income of P5.8 billion compared to Makati's P4.5 billion and Manila's P5.5 billion. QC has a cash surplus of P2 billion and a budgetary surplus of P187.7 million. Clearly, QC is not in need of additional revenues. The biggest collection came from real estate and business taxes, the same sectors that the councilors want to squeeze again.

2. This is not the time to raise taxes. Prices of everything are going up—food, fuel, transport fares, toll fees, premiums, electricity, water, phone bills, rent, even, in the unkindest cut of all, government and court fees. On the other hand, salaries and wages are not going up. Where will the people get the additional money to pay for all that? But the QC councilors, in an extraordinary demonstration of greed and crass opportunism, will add to the people's burden by raising real estate taxes.

3. The tax money that the government collects does not go to help the taxpayers. In exchange for the taxes the people pay, the government is supposed to provide them with basic services, including the protection of their lives and properties. But in QC, the government does not protect the properties of the lot owners from squatters; neither does it help them eject the squatters. Ask City Hall for help in preventing the entry of squatters or in ejecting them from your property and you will be given the runaround. On the contrary, it seems more eager to protect the lawbreakers. Councilors even use tax money to build basketball courts in the middle of streets for the squatters. In short, the taxes collected from law-abiding property owners are used not for their benefit but for the benefit of those who break the law and don't pay taxes. In effect, the money the taxpayers pay are used against them. *Maawa naman kayo sa kanila.*

4. Even if the Local Government Code allows local government units to increase real estate taxes to 20 percent and 50 percent for residential and commercial properties, respectively, this is not mandatory. Those are the limits. And they were put there precisely to prevent LGUs from being too greedy and abusing their powers. Councils are supposed to use their better judgments in passing ordinances, so that they will always be fair to their constituents. They are elected to serve their constituents, not to take advantage and oppress them.

* * *

The QC Council has another fund-raising idea to squeeze more money out of their constituents. It wants to tax private roads. These are the roads in private subdivisions for which the city government did not spend a single centavo either to develop or maintain. The subdivision developers built them and the homeowners' associations maintain them. Homeowners collect their own garbage, pay for their street lights, hire their own security guards, develop and maintain their own parks. The city government does not do anything for them, except collect their taxes.

Not content with what it is already collecting although, as stated earlier, it already has too much (at least, P2 billion in the banks), it wants more by imposing higher real estate taxes and now by taxing even private roads.

What is the justification for taxing private roads? The government does not maintain them; its policemen do not protect them; it does not clean them. So what is the tax for?

Many subdivisions are afraid to turn over their streets to the city government because when they do, the streets will not be maintained, there will be no security, there will be traffic anarchy, and there will be a breakdown in peace and order.

I suggest that the councilors, instead of encroaching on the rights of private citizens, first pay attention to the anarchy in public streets. Get the vendors off the sidewalks, make the drivers obey traffic rules, and make commuters wait for rides not in the middle of streets but in designated loading/unloading zones.

Legal limbo in Bush's war against terror

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

UNTIL recently, the prisoners held at Guantanamo, a US military base in Cuba, were in legal limbo and Guantanamo itself was, in the words of the US Supreme Court, "a lawless enclave." The Bush administration announced in early 2002 that detainees captured in Afghanistan could not enjoy prisoner-of-war status under the Geneva Conventions, and began taking prisoners to Cuba for indefinite detention and interrogation. On the other hand, if they were not POWs, they must be plainly terrorists and thus common criminals. Yet having been captured and detained abroad, they were unable to have their habeas corpus petitions heard by US courts—until the Rasul and Hamdi decisions by the US Supreme Court.

US President George Bush's war on terror has been twice chastised, before the US Senate and the US Supreme Court, despite a politically massive home-court advantage. First, it was Filipino-American Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who testified early last year before the US Senate on his explosive report (with the sober title "Article 15-6 Investigation of the 800th Military Police Brigade") which exposed prisoner abuses at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Baghdad.

The second was when the Supreme Court, despite its traditional deference to the president's wartime powers, held that it can hear the petition of prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay who say that they are being held unlawfully. In another crucial decision, the Court restrained Bush's claim to vast executive powers, and said that government may not hold suspected terrorists or "enemy combatants" on American soil without giving them their day in court.

In Rasul v. President Bush, the Court held that American courts may decide whether foreign nationals were rightfully imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay.

Shafiq Rasul, a British citizen, and David Hicks, an Australian, had filed a habeas corpus petition, which would have required a US court to exercise jurisdiction over a prisoner held by US soldiers on foreign soil. The US-Cuba military bases treaty stated that the US had "complete jurisdiction" over the base, but Cuba had "ultimate sovereignty." The Court held that the "complete jurisdiction" clause empowered it to hear the habeas corpus petition. Justice Stephen Breyer stated: "It seems rather contrary to an idea of a constitution with three branches that the executive would be free to do whatever they want…without a check."

In Hamdi v. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, the Court recognized the power of the government to detain unlawful combatants, but ruled that detainees must have the ability to challenge their detention before an impartial judge. By implication, it disfavored the three-man panels formed by the Pentagon to preempt criticism that the US had fallen short of the prisoner-of-war protection available under the Geneva Conventions.

Yaser Esam Hamdi is a US citizen who was captured in Afghanistan, held in Guantanamo and eventually transferred to a South Carolina detention facility. The government contended that Hamdi had been caught taking up arms against the US and could be detained indefinitely as an unlawful combatant. The government argued that this was needed to fight the "war on terror" following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to ensure that dangerous terrorists would no longer be a threat and could be fully interrogated. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that "a state of war is not a blank check for the president when it comes to the rights of the nation's citizens."

America is holding around 600 prisoners at its Cuban enclave, mostly captured in the early months of the war against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan. (Some 150 have already been released without charge, and almost 70 of them have been repatriated.)

Of late, more disclosures have come from within the walls of Guantanamo. US military authorities have found that interrogators there used "abusive interrogation techniques" that the Navy's general counsel considered "unlawful and unworthy of the military services." One practice that hogged the headlines for a while was the sexual degradation of male prisoners by female interrogators wearing thongs and other erotic paraphernalia. These "coercive" and "aggressive" techniques are certainly mild, indeed interesting, compared to the tales of torture documented in our history, but they certainly pull the rug from under the high moral posture taken by Bush after Sept. 11.

Bush had fiercely resisted the power of the newly created International Criminal Court to try war crimes (including outrages against the dignity of POWs), only to be taken to task eventually before his country's own courts. The US Supreme Court rulings repudiate the notion that the war on terrorism is beyond the reach of the rule of law and of the courts.

Cicero wrote two millennia ago: "*Silent enim leges inter arma* (For the laws fall silent amid the clash of arms)," and war indeed has been seen as the vanishing point of law. But not anymore. Today, the law of armed conflict is a distinct branch of international law. It abandons the just war theory, that ancient attempt to harness divine power to prove the correctness of one's cause. Instead it regulates merely the means by which armies fight, and ensures the dignity of innocent civilians, injured combatants and POWs. Bush's claim of sovereign and presidential prerogative is so broad that his war on terror has begun to rely on precisely the rhetoric of uninformed self-righteousness on which America's enemies have thrived.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph

A frivolous legal exercise

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WHAT started as a criminal libel case filed by former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo against Max Soliven, publisher of The Philippine Star and some of its editors, has become an open-ended saga that has gone beyond the issue of abuse of press freedom.

Hard on the heels of the libel complaint, Romulo came under retaliatory attack from former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez who filed graft charges with the Office of the Ombudsman against Romulo. Chavez claimed that Romulo had breached the anti-graft law by being in a "conflict of interest" situation, stemming from his position as senior presidential adviser on international competitiveness while holding various positions in private corporations.

The graft charges dragged the dispute between Romulo and the Star into another issue that has little to do with press freedom, or specifically, the capacity of the Philippine press to discipline its members from abusing freedom of the press by denying citizens, who are subjected to relentless scurrilous newspaper attacks, the right to reply in their pages.

How and why Chavez got into the fray is a matter of conjecture. Romulo thinks the graft charges were "designed to harass me into dropping the civil and criminal suits against Soliven and the Star." He contends that the complaint "is both wrong on the law and the facts."

Similarly important is that the graft charges open a new issue that has raised concerns in the private sector, as well as in government, over the implications of the case for the time-honored practice of tapping the services and expertise of private sector executives to join the public service as advisers without pay. Should the Office of the Ombudsman uphold Chavez's views, such a development would deter eminent private sector recruits from contributing their expertise to public service and would cause those already serving as advisers to quit their gratuitous government jobs or divest themselves of their private holdings, because these would put them in a "conflict of interest" conundrum, and make them liable for violating the anti-graft law.

The immediate effect of the graft complaint is to shift public attention from the libel complaint whose resolution is tremendously important in defining the blurry boundaries between press freedom and abuse of that freedom. The press now urgently needs to rehabilitate its credibility as protector of the afflicted and defender of the weak, but certainly not as a bully or as an oppressor, a role often associated with abusive governments and officials.

This shift of focus to another issue is unnecessary and unlikely to lead to the speedy resolution of the press freedom issues raised by the libel complaint, and takes the heat off the respondents. It has created a new issue that does not demand immediate judicial clarification. Whatever are the intentions of Chavez's surprising intervention with his conflict of interest case vis-à-vis Romulo, the graft complaint appears to be a frivolous exercise in legal irrelevance seeking to test the ethical limits of government advisers holding positions in the private sector.

In his reply to Chavez's complaint, Romulo has emphasized that there was "no conflict of interest" between his serving as adviser on international competitiveness and his retaining various positions in the private sector, and that he took up the position on the understanding he would serve without salary and without formal office. He said the conflict of interest being cited by Chavez "exists only in his mind" and "cannot be found in both the law and the facts."

Chavez undermines his case by making a sweeping accusation that Romulo holds key positions in a number of private corporations in businesses engaged in areas covered by his "portfolio." He then assumes that Romulo "could advise the President to adopt the advocacies of his select group in matters of international finance, etc." Romulo is head of corporations... "advancing their private interests in these very matters that are covered by his portfolio."

Chavez is claiming too much, implying, without proof, that Romulo has been using his positions in the Arroyo administration for alleged "influence peddling" in favor of his "crony" businessmen, which requires proof.

These claims put Chavez on shaky grounds. They go beyond Chavez's contention that Romulo's holding positions in private companies covered by his "portfolio" as presidential adviser was sufficient to establish conflict of interest. This is a dangerous doctrine. Violation of the anti-graft law is a serious criminal offense, requiring evidence to back charges. Chavez cannot rely on blanket hypothetical assumptions to build a case on graft.

Chavez did not attempt to establish an instance of graft. When criminal action for graft is taken, it must be demonstrated that there is a point at which influence was peddled and exchanged for favors, and at which contending interests collided. Chavez did not attempt to demonstrate that this collision of interests took place. Chavez has to do a lot more work in presenting his evidence that graft has actually been committed than just building a case based on hypothetical situations. Otherwise, he can't be taken seriously.

As Romulo has pointed out, "There is a useful distinction, under our administrative and penal codes, between public officers and advisers in government. The Revised Penal Code says that a public officer performs a sovereign function (he or she can sign legal documents on behalf of the government); and an adviser or consultant cannot.

"The Anti-Graft Law explicitly says that to be liable for graft, a public officer must be paid a salary or compensation for his service; an adviser or consultant does not have such compensation."

'Beijing + 10' ends on an 'odd' note

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NEW YORK—Almost a week ago, the "Beijing + 10" conference, officially known as the 49th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women to review the Beijing Platform for Action, came to an end in this city.

The two-week conference, which went through a rocky, contentious start, ended in a consensus "forged by pressure from thousands of women's leaders" who were either part of their country's delegations or took part as NGO observers and speakers at the various panels and workshops sponsored by both the UN, Unifem or NGO networks.

As a report states, the women's "united stance against divisive proposals from the Bush administration" resulted in an unconditional reaffirmation of the commitments made by most of the world's governments at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing.

Apart from reaffirming the Beijing commitments, "Beijing + 10" also resulted in the passage of significant resolutions which, together with the final declaration, will become part of the UN's High-Level Millennium Review in September, to be attended by heads of state and government, including President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Two of the resolutions adopted by the plenary were initiated by the Philippines: one calling for the adoption of a gender perspective in the planning and implementation of disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, particularly in the wake of the tsunami disaster; and another calling on the UN secretary general to begin consultations on the possible creation of a Special Rapporteur on Discriminatory Laws against Women.

As an observer, who worked closely with the Philippine delegation to "Beijing + 10" remarked: "I must say, this delegation is, by far, the most engaged, dynamic and prolific that I have worked with." The Philippine delegation was cochaired by Philippine Ambassador to the UN Lauro Baja and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) lead convenor Mely Nicolas.

* * *

STILL, despite the successful outcome, the conference ended as it had begun, with the United States isolated in its attempt to derail the consensus reached and frustrated in its mission to set back the progress made in affirming women's human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.

There was even some "melodrama" involved when the United States, which had introduced a resolution on women's economic advancement, disowned its own resolution after Cuba and South Africa inserted references to "reproductive/sexual health services" and "women's reproductive rights" in the text.

An Associated Press report noted that "events ended on an odd note," especially after US delegation head Ellen Sauerbey attempted to revoke the resolution but had to back off when reminded that she could no longer do so as the amendments had already been voted on.

Of the 10 resolutions submitted, eight, including the one on the "tsunami" post-disaster efforts, were passed by consensus, but two others—the resolution on economic advancement and that on the special rapporteur—had to be put to a vote.

"What we proved here is that the United States can't bully the world when it comes to women's human rights," June Zeitlin, executive director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (Wedo), said. "We must be vigilant about any future attempts to roll back women's rights at home and abroad." Other activists at the meeting said they suspected the US delegation's posturing was merely "intended to play to domestic political audiences."

* * *

POLITICS may be the reason for the American government's posturing and policy, but their impact goes far beyond just politics. The current political atmosphere, especially as regards reproductive health programs, is having a devastating impact on hundreds of NGOs (both American and foreign groups receiving US program funds) doing work on reproductive health concerns such as safe motherhood, family planning, infant and children's health, and adolescent sexuality.

Recently, I received a message from "The Media Project," which works with American entertainment providers on the inclusion of reproductive health messages in sitcoms, soap operas, MTVs and movies, explaining that it was cutting back on its personnel and projects because of funding shortfalls.

"After 20 years of proudly serving the entertainment community as a pro bono resource on sexual health and reproductive rights, The Media Project must downsize," wrote the executive director. As she explained it, Advocates for Youth, which is The Media Project's mother organization, lost a substantial part of its funding "because of the political climate in Washington."

* * *

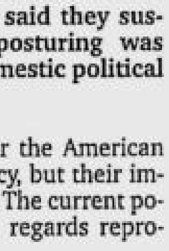
DESPITE its strong record of "cutting-edge HIV and AIDS prevention programs in the US, Latin America and Africa," Advocates for Youth lost funding support mainly because "of its refusal to support abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that prohibit information about condoms (Strike #1), its support of the reproductive rights of young women (Strike #2), and its programs for HIV-positive, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (Strike #3)."

And because of the funding shortfall, other programs, such as The Media Project, will have to be cut back as well. And to think conservatives in the United States have long been complaining about the kinds of messages that popular media convey to young people. Now, because of their hostility to the very idea of sexual and reproductive health and rights, a project which gives young people messages on responsible sexual behavior has its very existence threatened.

I doubt if policymakers and funders in Washington, who think along the same lines as the US delegation to "Beijing + 10," realize the irony and absurdity of their actions and decisions.

Street names

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN there is yet another change in street names, historically conscious people usually turn to the National Historical Institute first to complain. Under existing rules, prior consultation with the NHI should be made before a street name can be changed. The same principle also applies to proposals to rename public school buildings.

While the buck often ends with the NHI chair, the complete staff work and recommendations are made by the NHI research division under Dr. August de Viana and Carminda Arevalo. They go through the paperwork, look for precedents and other connections, resulting in a decision for or against the proposed change.

As a matter of principle, the NHI objects to changing street names that have been in existence a long time and can be deemed "sanctified by usage." However, we have seen recent changes like Aduana in Intramuros now changed to Soriano or Pasay Road in Makati now changed to Arnaiz. I'm too young to remember the debate over the change from Azcarraga to Recto, but as a historian I realize that street names are not just signs to help us find an address, but also a way of remembering the past. The unsuccessful move to rename the Rizal Memorial Stadium as Benigno Aquino Stadium is an example of recent history overlapping with something older. Is there form, pattern, or logic to all these changes? The answer is worth a doctoral dissertation.

In the past 15 years, there have been repeated moves to rename Taft Avenue to either Aglipay, Aguinaldo or Diokno Avenue. They all failed because there was enough public opinion to oppose the change, but what about smaller, lesser known streets?

Instead of blaming the NHI for changes in street names, people should vent their ire on government officials or legislators who initiate such moves because the NHI's opinion is consultative rather than deliberative. In simple language, this means that the NHI's opinion must be sought and, in principle, followed, but if the proponent is bullheaded, there is very little the NHI can do unless it is supported by public outrage.

Last year, there was a move to change España Boulevard to Arturo Tolentino Boulevard. Dr. De Viana, who also teaches at the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas (incidentally founded by Spanish Dominicans whose main campus is along España) came up with a position paper that should be taken in consideration in case another proposal is made to rename the street:

"Historically. España belongs to a series of streets that had something to do with Spain. There are street names such as: Galicia, Algeciras, Extremadura and Cataluña, which are Spanish provinces. One street, Dos Castillas, refers to Leon and Castille that are represented in the Spanish flag. Another, Maria Cristina, was named after the Queen of Spain who served as regent during the minority of King Alfonso XIII. There is also a street named Don Quixote, the main personality in the novel by Miguel de Cervantes. Other streets carry the names of virtues in Spanish: Economia, Trabajo, Prudencio and Constancia. The rest were apparently the names of relatives of the former estate, such as Eloisa, Adelina, Paquita, etc. Near the boundary of Quezon City the streets straddling España have names that relate to Jose Rizal: P. Leoncio (Rizal's godfather), Craig (after Austin Craig, one of Rizal's biographers), Basilio, Sisa and Ibarra (characters in 'Noli me tangere'). The pattern of these streets shows an aesthetic unity that could be easily destroyed by the renaming of even one of these."

Dr. De Viana then continues his lament:

"There are cases when the renaming of streets was pushed through even if the NHI interposed objection. Some renaming have taken place even without consultation with the NHI ... To my knowledge, there are already some streets along España [that] have been renamed without [prior] consultation with the NHI. These are: Constancia (now Cristobal), Pepin (now Marzan), and Forbes (now Arsenio Lacson). Earlier, P. Leoncio was renamed Antonio Quintos, Cataluña (now Tolentino), Economia (now Manuel de la Fuente), Trabajo (now Vicente G. Cruz) and Washington (now Antonio Maceda)."

We can go on with historical and emotional reasons to retain España. Dr. De Viana dug up a little known fact that provides a legal basis:

"The land where España Boulevard is located was donated by Antonio de la Riva, owner of the Sulucan Estate Corporation on the condition that it shall be named after the Iberian nation. In 1952 the City Council of Manila tried to rename the boulevard but the heirs of de la Riva reminded city officials of the conditions of the donation. Furthermore, España is classified as a national road, as indicated by its white street signs. City roads are indicated by blue street signs. National roads are not under the jurisdiction of local governments, therefore the Local Government Code cannot be used as basis for the renaming.

"Instead of renaming the boulevard, España should be improved and beautified since it recognizes the nation's Spanish heritage. It could [also] become the venue of celebrations of Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day now celebrated every June 30."

One must add that in Madrid, the place where the Rizal monument stands is Avenida de Filipinas. Heritage conservation is not just about old structures and antiquities but sometimes can be as commonplace as street names.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Language, context, politics and health

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WE often wish we could figure out what's in people's minds. Parents with teenage kids, for example, complain constantly, "*Ano ang nasa kukote niya?*" (What's in that kid's skull?)

Well, you'd know if you'd just listen to what the kid's saying, or isn't saying. Even those grunts they use to answer our questions have meanings: "Can't you see I'm growing up? I'm happy. I love you, but leave me alone."

I digress. My point is that we can learn about people's values, ethos, world views by listening to what they say (and, again, don't say). Anthropologists do this all the time, and it's a skill I've been trying to pass on to physicians and health professionals. To help them become more effective, I've urged them to listen, not just to what their patients are saying to them, but also to what they are saying to their patients and their patients' families.

It's a matter of listening in context. For non-health professionals, a "*bukol*" can be a bump on the head. Or it can be used to refer to a growth on the breast—"*bukol*" used here sometimes in denial of a more serious problem. Now, when a doctor says they've found a "*bukol*" on a patient, that pronouncement can cause hysteria because it's immediately interpreted as a deadly cancerous growth.

This example only underscores cultural differences that exist even among people who think they share a common culture. Doctors and patients may use Filipino and yet misunderstand each other because there are different interpretations of the same words. In a sense then, even Filipino spoken by Filipinos needs to be "translated."

Gamot, lason

Because words are so powerful, we have to be conscious about how they're used. Last Wednesday, I wrote about how pesticides are now often referred to as "*gamot*" (medicine), which both reflects and reinforces Filipinos' cavalier attitude toward these dangerous chemicals. If pesticides are *gamot*, then they can be kept inside the house, often even next to food. The risk of poisoning is all too real, as may have happened in Mabini, Bohol, resulting in the deaths of 28 schoolchildren.

I urged a return to the term "*lason*" (poison) to refer to pesticides, the term evoking a mental image of a skull and crossbones. "*Lason*" is a powerful word that tells us, "Danger." I've also been using the term when talking with drug dependents, a way of reminding them that they're poisoning themselves. I do this because "drugs" and "*bawal na gamot*" (forbidden medicine) have actually taken on positive connotations, words that carry notions of danger but in an alluring and challenging way. "Drugs," in the context of contemporary Filipino society with every other celebrity now hooked, evokes "Try me" rather than "Avoid me."

And then there's 'agas'

Context is so important here. Anthropologist Malot Ingel, who lives in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, texted me after reading my column to point out that in Ilokano, "*gamot*" actually means poison. The Ilokano word for medicine is "*agas.*" So, I asked her how the words are used in her area and, hold your breath, here's what they have: "*gamot*" is used to refer to substances like rat poison, which is fine in the Ilokano context because *gamot* there means poison. But stuff used to spray plants, as well as termite control chemicals, are "*agas*" or medicine.

Now why should rat poison be called poison and pesticides medicine? I don't have certain answers here, but maybe it's because the effects of rat poison (which we also call "*lason*" in Filipino) are more visible. We see the dead rats, but we don't see the dead insects killed by pesticides. Even several hundred dead termites don't quite have the impact of one dead rat (especially the ones that have grown obese from feasting on urban garbage).

My advice to Malot, who works with non-government organizations, is to encourage a semantic shift—a change in meanings—of pesticides from "*agas*" (medicine) to "*gamot*" (poison). It's really reversing an earlier shift. Filipino farmers were calling pesticides "*lason*" well into the 1980s, much to the dismay of government farm extension workers and pesticide distributors who wanted farmers to use more of these chemicals. The word "*gamot*" (as medicine) may in fact have come from people who wanted to boost sales of the chemicals. They were too successful, I'm afraid.

'Ligtas buntis'

Let me move to another example of the often thorny issues around health and language: the current controversy around the Department of Health's Ligtas Buntis.

The first time I heard the term, I knew the DOH was going to get into trouble. It was too vague a term. I was at a meeting when the term was used and everyone asked what the campaign was going to be all about.

The DOH now explains that Ligtas Buntis means "Safe Pregnancy," with family planning advocacy linked to maternal health. Anti-family planning groups, including the Catholic bishops, saw it differently, translating "Ligtas Buntis" into "Safe from Pregnancy."

It's not a mistranslation, when you think about it. Even Donald Dee of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines, a strong family planning advocate, said on a television talk show that "Ligtas Buntis" meant "safe from pregnancy" and added that the choice of the name was unfortunate, implying people needed to be saved from pregnancy.

Not surprisingly, the wrath of anti-family planning groups has descended on the health department, with groups like Couples for Christ dissociating themselves from the campaign.

I'll save (note that "*ligtas*" would not be appropriate here) for future columns other examples of unwise language choices in medical consultations and in public health campaigns. Suffice it to say, for now, that words are especially volatile in relation to health. We value health and fear illnesses, so words are all too quickly reinterpreted and misinterpreted.

We learn to associate certain meanings with certain words based on our experiences and those of people close to us. Thus, "*bukol*" takes on ominous meanings because we hear of how so-and-so died a week after being diagnosed with a "*bukol.*" The actual context disappears, submerged by our own experiences.

There's politics here as well. Whatever the health department may have called its current maternal health campaign, the inclusion of family planning, even if marginally, would have raised the conservatives' hackles. If they had their way, there would be no family planning at all in the Philippines, natural or "artificial."

Despite the limitations of dealing with dogmatic ideologues, I'd still say we need to be careful with words when used in health care. Whether a mother or a health secretary, an NGO worker or a rural health unit midwife, what we say and do as we provide health services and combat illness will go a long way, around our social circles and across generations.

Bedrock of democracy

FIRST, the Arroyo administration implemented a "no permit, no rally" policy which virtually curtailed the right to peaceful assembly. As a result numerous rallies, pickets and peaceful assemblies were violently dispersed. Even at Plaza Miranda, a freedom park, a rally was savagely dispersed.

Second, the Arroyo administration pushed for a national ID system as part of its war on terror. As an initial step, it was to be tried in Muslim areas. A national ID system has long been ruled by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

Now comes the proposal to ban the publication or coverage of interviews with alleged "terrorists." The media have been warned that it can be held liable under our anti-sedition laws.

These moves by the Arroyo administration are relentless assaults on our democratic rights and freedoms. It must be reminded of Article III, Bill of Rights, Section 4 of the Philippine Constitution which states:

"No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances."

The government and its police and military forces must be reminded to uphold the fundamental law of the land.

Besides, the definition of "terrorist" is so vague that it is subject to many interpretations. It can include those who oppose the Arroyo administration for its skewed economic policies and those who protest the war on terror that has victimized countless civilians. It can even include community organizers, human rights activists, ecology defenders, women's rights activists, writers, poets, columnists, reporters or anyone that the government chooses to consider a threat to national security.

Is the Arroyo administration seeking a reversal of the gains of Edsa I and II?

The people struggled valiantly to topple a dictator in 1986. The people again trooped to the streets to oust an inept and corrupt regime in 2001. They fought for freedom, sovereignty, human rights, justice and peace.

These must not be forgotten by those in government. They must not resort to shortcuts to win the war on terror. Human rights must remain the bedrock of government actions, policies and programs. Our leaders must learn to respect, protect and uphold human rights. Only then will we be able to address the roots of poverty, discrimination, exclusion, social inequity and injustice.

—EC AMISTAD,
deputy director for Operations-Luzon, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines,
ecamistad@tfdp.org

LETTERS

A solution to RP's woes?

THIS refers to INQUIRER's interesting front-page story, "Miriam: Let's commit suidice." (PDI, 3/4/05) I say a big "yes" or "amen" to the proposal.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago is not the first legislator to propose the mass suicide of lawmakers in the name of public service. An Ilonggo congressman first proposed that all *trapos*, including himself, be shot by a firing squad.

Defensor's mass suicide proposal will not work because the sight of blood coming out of the throat will cow legislators into running away.

I think the more practical and effective way is to organize homeless, hungry and poor people who are sleeping or living under the bridges into firing squads authorized to shoot the legislators. But corrupt officials in Malacañang, military, police, judiciary, local governments and other public offices should be included.

For then and only then, will we be able to solve corruption in government and make the country a better place to live in.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
orlandicho@hotmail.com

Judicial money talk

THE EDITORIAL, "Judicial underworld" (PDI, 1/28/05) correctly stated: "If lawyers cannot turn up evidence that would stand in court to prove that a judge has extorted money to render a favorable decision, or another lawyer had bribed a judge, then how much less would ordinary people be in a position to produce the evidence and make a strong case against corruption?"

Inmates here have talked about such corrupt practices, but like the lawyers in the SWS survey, they cannot prove them. Here are some examples. In a homicide case, the amount for an amicable settlement or "*areglo*" (under-the-table deal) was increased from the original P50,000 to P80,000 for a judge or fiscal. The accused backed out of the *areglo* and was eventually convicted.

Another case had a PAO (Public Attorney's Office) lawyer demanding P10,000 from his client who wanted to file a motion to dismiss based on the affidavit of desistance executed by the complainants in a robbery case. The client asked for the help of a private lawyer and was subsequently released.

Ramon Tulfo, in a column (PDI 1/25/05), lamenting the lip service of judges and prosecutors, noted "Barrio folks perceive—and sometimes, rightly—that the NPA gives them instant justice like when they executed a suspected cattle rustler for stealing a poor farmer's carabao." He added: "The delay in the administration of justice by the courts is the biggest reason why vigilante groups have mushroomed in many parts of the country like Davao City and Cebu City. If citizens keep putting justice into their own hands, we might as well get rid of our courts." Is there any hope for justice for the people?

I guess so, if those in our justice system will stick to their code of ethics. Like what the late JBL Reyes and Sen. Jose W. Diokno did in sending an American smuggler to jail. Like those in the Free Legal Assistance Group and People's Interest Law Center, who continue to defend the people against any human rights violation. Then we may yet see one day some "nice prosecutors around," "nice practicing lawyers around" and "nice presiding judges around" faithfully serving our people.

Let me take this opportunity to make a correction to my letter, "Double standard of justice in the Philippines" (PDI, 1/17/05). "Carmela Candelario" should have been "Carmela Caballero" and "Dec. 17, 2004 should have been "Dec. 27, 2004." My apologies.

—EDUARDO R. SERRANO,
political prisoner,
Oriental Mindoro Provincial Jail,
Calapan City.

Protection from within

THE "PRE-NEED" scandal that has made news since January is not limited to one company, according to INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros. (PDI, 2/17/05)

And who would know better than someone who got stiffed when it was his time to collect? A situation the veteran opinion writer was lucky enough to get out of; but apparently not thousands of others who are still holding their breath.

In the United States, "preneeds" are set up at banks and insurance companies, mostly regulated by stiff federal laws. And they are run by trustworthy professionals who like their jobs, their kneecaps and, above all, their freedom.

I'm not surprised De Quiros had something to say about the need for consumer protection reform in an industry that can't seem to protect itself against sleaze and greed from within.

A wake-up story even more credibly written in the first-person singular. But then with De Quiros, invariably, what you get is where he's been.

—ELIOTT ANDERSON,
PO Box 2796, Ozamiz City 7200

Story on Erap's foundation clarified

HOW irresponsible the reporter of the INQUIRER can get with his news on the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation. (PDI, 2/24/05) Even stupid to say, "with more than P200 million in funds, the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation of jailed ex-President Estrada managed to send to school only five Muslim scholars..."

The story is full of lies, inaccuracies and b______. The lack of accuracy in his reporting confuses many people. I have been a witness to how my father (Dr. Raul P. de Guzman) had been trying to get scholarships for deserving Muslim students, even spending his own money, time and effort because it was Erap's dream to make good education accessible to Muslim youth.

The P200 million is a dead account after the banks froze it on court orders. Still, so many people are making it difficult for my father to get the rest of the amount that was raised from the Erap Golf Tournament. My father continues to pursue Erap's dream of providing the youth, who are the country's future leaders, with good education as the best investment we can make. He has served the University of the Philippines as an educator for more than 50 years. No one can ever question his integrity and honesty.

—MARISSA DE GUZMAN, MD,
17 Melantic St.,
San Lorenzo Village,
Makati City

IT is unfair for Ms De Guzman to accuse this reporter of being irresponsible, when she herself had not attended the Sandiganbayan hearing to know what her father said. Or, maybe, she should have gone over the transcripts of the hearing to know the real score. Court records will bear me out. I only quoted her father's statement in court. I also suggest that she read my story carefully: I placed her father's statement in context, i.e., the failure of the foundation to hire more scholars was due to the "freezing" of the P200 million, its three-year "hiatus," the jailing of lawyer Edward Serapio and the surgery on Mr. Raul de Guzman.

—ARMAND N. NOCUM,
PDI reporter

Grateful, supportive beneficiaries

THIS refers to a Feb 22 news item in the INQUIRER titled, "Palace 'invites' gov't employees to Edsa rites," in which Ferdinand Gaite of the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees was quoted as saying that the beneficiaries of the government, who were invited to attend the Feb. 22 Anti-Corruption Rally at the Edsa People Power Monument "will be forced" and "given food."

The Green Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Bacoor, Cavite, one of the latest beneficiaries of the "Patubig Ni Gloria" project, finds his statement untrue and demands that Gaite and his organization issue an apblogy for that statement which in effect insulted the members of our group.

We participated in the Edsa celebration because we firmly believe that the government is sincere in its fight against corruption and poverty. We were there to extend our support.

—AMELITA M. AZARCON,
chair, Green Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative,
Barangay San Nicolas III,
Bacoor, Cavite

On the Abu Sayyaf prison uprising

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THERE is no excuse for the escalation of the crisis. Clearly, there was dereliction of duty!

Three jail guards are dead, obviously because there was no system in place. They were killed because of the incompetence of their leaders. These so-called leaders should be punished, if not administratively, then criminally.

Why do I blame them? Because I can't make up any reason why the guards were carrying weapons inside a jail facility that had inmates in it. Who was the genius who thought of that idea? Did he see this in a movie? Only guards outside the confinement areas (e.g., at the towers), where inmates won't be able to get to them, are the ones who should be allowed to carry arms.

Also, there is a rule that inmates should not be allowed to have cell phones, lighters, belts, etc. This is all for the safety of the jail guards and the inmates.

The officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology must do their jobs. That is all that the people are asking of them. I pity the officer who had to inform the families of the fallen jail guards that their father/husband had been killed because our leaders are incompetent!—**Mark Cruz, Makati City**

* * *

The Abu Sayyaf has gone on another "adventure," which snuffed out the lives of three innocent jail guards, causing their loved ones more suffering and grief.

I am filled with rage thinking that something like that had happened, especially with the way people in authority handled the incident.

First, the group's demands: They wanted to talk to actor Robin Padilla, to a congressman from Mindanao, to a certain doctor whose name escapes my memory, and to the media people after their surrender. And they invoked their human rights.

Aren't these demands too much, coming as they did from a group who, in the first place, showed no respect for the rights, including the right to life, of other people, by killing three innocent jail guards?

And they wanted to talk to the media after their surrender. For what reason? They had proven themselves to be terrorists!

I just wished that the government did not listen to and grant their demands. That only gave them further encouragement. If the government had shown strength and firmness, the Abu Sayyaf would now be thinking twice before embarking on another adventure.

Easier said, I know, but this is how terrorists should be dealt with, especially because they have no respect for human life.

Second, I feel so sad that some people are blaming this Abu Sayyaf adventure on the Arroyo administration. Whether the government is good or bad, the Abu Sayyaf will always be the Abu Sayyaf. Will groups like Gabriela and the Kilusang Mayo Uno rally in the streets and protest the killing of innocent people?—**Joseph Arnel Lo, Naperville, Illinois, USA**

* * *

I have read the news report about some Abu Sayyaf members who killed several people while trying to escape a jail in Taguig. I think it is now time for the BJMP to review its existing policies regarding the treatment of dangerous criminals and terrorists. Some system flaws, owing to those policies, must have encouraged these terrorist into attempting an escape.

Here are some of them:

1. The prison inmates are allowed to have cell phones. In other countries, prisoners and even visitors are not allowed to bring their own cell phones inside the prison cell.

2. Visitors are allowed to see and meet them personally without any barrier. I believe it is high time for the government to prohibit physical contact between prisoners and visitors who should be allowed to talk to each other only by using a telephone. Hardened criminals and dangerous terrorists should not be allowed any visitor at all, except their lawyers.

3. The prisoners' feet are not shackled when they are eating breakfast. I believe otherwise; they must be (just like the prisoners in the United States) to make sure they do not escape in the event that they are able to grab dangerous weapons.

4. Dangerous terrorists are put together inside the same cells. Again, this procedural flaw has been routine practice in our prisons, making it easy for them to escape. I think it is high time to put these terrorists in solitary confinement for the duration of their trial in order to prevent them from plotting any escape attempt. This is not a human rights violation, but just simple standard operating procedure for dangerous prisoners.

We have become once again a laughingstock of the world. I thought we had learned our lessons from previous jailbreaks. I wonder why this problem has not been addressed.

How many more terrorists will escape before our country learns its lessons?

I have been in Singapore for a long time, and I have seen how effective the way they deter prisoners from escaping because of their tough policies. This is also true in Malaysia and in other countries fighting terrorism. So why are we not emulating them?

Let us remember that prisoners, like the Abu Sayyaf members, whether still presumed innocent under our law or not, are not to be trusted at all! They are a danger not just to our society but to the region as well. We can do better service to the world if we know how to handle them properly.

And lastly, whenever such things happen, there should be no negotiations of any kind. These people are dangerous criminals. Negotiations with terrorists should be stopped; they shouldn't be allowed in the first place. Terrorists should be destroyed! If we try to negotiate with them, then potential criminals and potential terrorists will be encouraged to follow in their footsteps. And most of the time, it is we, the people of the Philippines, who suffer because of them, though they are so few. And no politicians from any level of our government should be in such negotiations, which are a simple police matter. They must instead address the weaknesses of the BJMP system and procedures; only then will the "adventures" of hardened terrorists easily become a thing of the past.—**Jasper Loverio, Singapore**

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Exec says Sulu returning to normal

A SOLDIER guards a mosque in Panamao, Sulu at the height of fighting between followers of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari and government forces. REM ZAMORA

PANAMAO, Sulu—People in this war-stricken province have started to return to their normal lives, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo's peace adviser.

"Indanan (town) is the only area that is affected so far, where the pursuit operation is ongoing against some armed groups and where we have the big number of internally displaced people," Secretary Teresita Deles told reporters in the capital town of Jolo on Wednesday.

Deles was here to attend the launching of Tabang Sulu, a government-initiated effort to rebuild the lives and infrastructure devastated by recent fighting between soldiers and followers of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari. An opening ceremony was held at the Tabang Sulu Action Center.

As of March 15, Gov. Benjamin Loong reported, 8,243 families or a total of 45,971 individuals were still living in evacuation areas in the towns of Indanan, Parang, Patikul, Panamao, Panglima Estino, Kalinggalang Caluang, Maimbung and Luuk.

But Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said a big number of the displaced families in Panamao and Luuk town had already started to go back to their homes. "We are happy to see people returning and starting life anew," she said.

Some families preferred to stay in established evacuation areas in Talipao, Panglima Estino, Maimbung and Patikul, Soliman said.

Amilbahar Amilasan, deputized coordinator of the Provincial Civil Defense and executive secretary of the Area Coordinating Council of Sulu, said a total of P8,558,376 worth of goods and cash assistance had been received.

"More are coming," Secretary Jesus Dureza, the President's adviser on Mindanao affairs, said. He pledged an additional P60 million worth of relief assistance and 62 more core shelter units, and the construction of water facilities and health centers.

Initially, Soliman and Baynon Kayron, secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao released three checks amounting to P1.3 million to Brig. Gen. Sergio Candelario, commander of the 55th Engineering Brigade, for the immediate construction of 52 houses in Panamao as part of the government's core shelter project.

Another check amounting to P216,000 was given to the provincial social welfare office for the supplemental feeding of 60 children suffering from malnutrition for six months. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Health office reports increase in cases of abortion in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Abortion cases in Negros Occidental are on the rise, according to the provincial health office.

Dr. Luisa Efren, PHO chief, said 3,469 cases of abortion were reported last year, about thrice as many as the number of cases reported in 2002 (949 cases) and 2003 (more than 1,000).

Efren admitted that last year's figure could even be higher. "More cases of abortion in the province that have gone unreported," she said.

"These (3,469 cases) were recorded because the mothers were admitted in hospitals for management of complications caused by abortions done illegally," she said. "The figures we have on record are only for reported abortion cases because patients end up in hospitals for further treatment."

In search of answers

Gov. Joseph Marañon wanted Efren to validate the 2004 data and break down the figures to find out why the abortion cases in the province were increasing.

The governor also asked the health official to identify illegal clinics operating in the province so that action could immediately be taken.

Efren said the health department had been trying to check the rising trend of abortion through education and awareness campaigns, such as the Ligtas Buntis Program.

She pointed out that some women suffered from unwanted pregnancies because they were not aware of the available choices.

Last month, the Department of Health launched the Ligtas Buntis Program nationwide in what was seen as the government's most aggressive initiative to encourage family planning among Filipino couples.

Funds

Some P150 million was allocated for the campaign, with about P100 million coming from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the rest from the DOH budget.

The campaign targets pregnant women, as well as men and women of reproductive age, to teach on fertility and various safe and legally acceptable family planning methods.

Efren said Ligtas Buntis was designed to inform parents on proper birth spacing to ensure that mothers and their babies were healthy.

"We provide parents with an informed choice. It is up to them on what method of birth control to practice," she added.

Efren stressed that contrary to Church pronouncements, the Ligtas Buntis Program was pro-life and anti-abortion.

Church opposition

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said the Church was against the government's policies on population control through the use of contraception."

"These measures are highly immoral because they defeat the purpose of marriage planned by God, which is both unitive and procreative," said Navarra in a statement, which was read in all churches in the Bacolod Diocese on Sunday.

He pointed out that the issue was not to regulate the contraception and birth of children.

"The very issue that we have to face here is not that too many people because poverty, rather bad governance and policies do," Navarra said.

The Church has denounced particularly the Ligtas Buntis Program of the Department of Health, claiming that it encourages abortion and was teaching birth control methods that are against Church policies.

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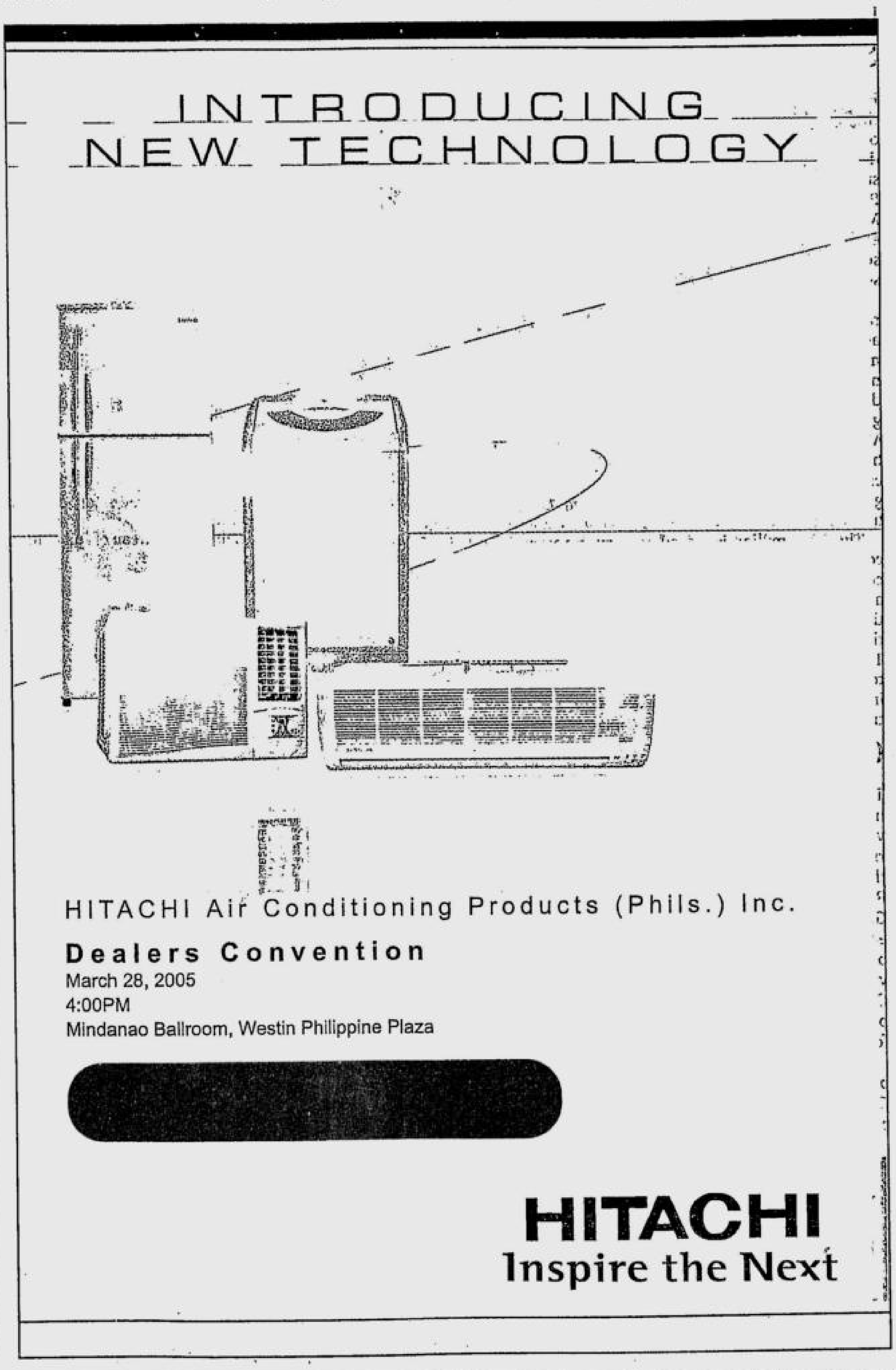
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Pol bodyguards rob couple in Biliran

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
PDI Visayas Bureau

NAVAL, Biliran—A band of seven men, mostly identified as bodyguards of the ruling Espina political family and wielding government-issued firearms, broke into an apartment rented by a Vietnamese businessman in the commercial district here on Monday and ran away with P600,000 and US$800 in cash, mobile phones and cell cards.

Gov. Rogelio Espina said he regretted that the suspects betrayed his trust and made a farce of his community rehabilitation efforts for reformed penal offenders.

Police solved the robbery several hours after it took place since some of the suspects were easily identified because they were not wearing masks. They were captured in three hideouts in different towns.

Some P173,000 of the money and four cell phones were recovered, as well as the guns used in the robbery.

Arrested were Eugenio Nierras Corpin, a native of Biliran town; Sergio Corpin Azur, Martin Carbo Rocete and Nicomedes Azur, all of Barangay Binohangan, Caibiran; and Elijeo Rocete, Enrico Verotiao and Joseph Demate Piad, all of Villa Vicenta, Caibiran.

Corpin and Nicomedes Azur were reportedly in the government payroll as provincial jail guards. They have been released on parole from the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

Some of the seized firearms and getaway motorcycles belong to the provincial government, a police officer, who requested anonymity, said. This was not mentioned in the police report, however.

The report said the victims, Cuong Luong and his Filipino wife Lily Rabasto-Luong, had just arrived at the apartment at around 7 p.m. from their dry goods store and cell phone center nearby when the robbers barged in.

2 more leftist activists killed

LUCENA CITY—Two members of leftist organizations in Camarines Norte were shot and killed separately, according to Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano, who pointed at Army soldiers as suspects.

Mariano said one of the victims, Joel Reyes, a tricycle driver and Anakpawis organizer in Jose Panganiban town was shot at about 11 a.m. on Wednesday, allegedly by members of the 902nd Infantry Brigade and 31st Infantry Battalion.

Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, strongly denied the accusation.

"That perennial accusation is totally unfair to the military. If they really have a case against any member of the military, they should just file their case in court instead of always resorting to trial by media publicity," Broso said.

Quoting reports reaching him, Mariano said two gunmen boarded Reyes' tricycle at the public market in Barangay South Poblacion and at the boundaries of Barangays Callero and Nakalaya, one of the passengers shot Reyes.

Mariano also reported that Ernesto Bang, public information officer of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chapter in Camarines Norte, was shot dead at about 10 p.m. of March 10 on the doorsteps of his house in Barangay Malangkaw Basud in Labo town.

Mariano, the concurrent KMP national chair, said four men shot the victim in the mouth when he opened the door to find out who was knocking. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

'Grass' uprooted

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion uprooted 6,000 fully-grown and 2,000 seedlings of marijuana plants during a raid in the remote village of Danlag in Tampakan, South Cotabato on Sunday. Insp. Victoriano Bato, officer in charge of PDEA-Central Mindanao, told reporters that two marijuana planters identified as Muliglig Cawayan and Noel Diamila escaped before the raiding team arrived in the area. "Maybe, they were able to spot us so they fled immediately," Bato said. After uprooting, the members of the raiding team burned the prohibited plant. They brought a few kilos to be used as exhibit.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tornado ruins crops

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—About P1.2-million worth of crops and properties were damaged when a tornado hit the outskirt village of San Jose here at around 2 p.m. March 13. No casualty was reported but 20 mango trees and four houses were uprooted by the twister. San Jose village chair Fred Belgica told reporters that Purok Lumbang and Banwalan were the most affected. "The residents were just lucky as they immediately escaped before the tornado hit their houses," Belgica said. "Residents were wailing and trembling in fear upon seeing the mango trees swirling and flying up in the air," he said. The twister disappeared after hitting a solid concrete house owned by a barangay kagawad in the area.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rebels burn bus

DAVAO CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned a bus in Kapalong, Davao del Norte on Saturday. Maj. Roberto Dumalahay, chief of the 5th Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, said the burning of the JRC Bus Liner took place at around 5 a.m. March 12 in Purok 5, Barangay Gabuyan. Dumalahay said 12 rebels belonging to the NPA's Front Committee 35 were onboard the bus from Davao City and upon reaching the place, ordered other passengers to disembark from the vehicle. The rebels then burned the bus. After the incident, four motorcycles reportedly arrived and the 12 suspects boarded them and fled towards Sitio Barobo in Barangay Narra in Talaingod town, also in Davao del Norte.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Adopt-a-mountain drive

LET US DO OUR PART!

CITY OF CALAPAN—Environmental abuses would only be stopped if there is spiritual healing in each person and application of faith and values in dealing with nature, said Fr. Al Arbor of the Community Action and Responsibility for our Environment (Care) Foundation Inc. The priest introduced the Adopt-A-Mountain Program before the Provincial Care Council, a multisectoral forum led by Oriental Mindoro Bishop Warlito Cajandig during a meeting last Feb. 18. Bingo Palarca of Brigadang Berde (Fight for Life) offered assistance in documenting cases of environmental abuses for action and referring them to concerned groups.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 persons nabbed

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Police arrested two teenage students allegedly involved in illegal drugs and two wanted persons were arrested in separate operations recently. Laguna provincial director Senior Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr. identified the arrested minors as first year high school students in Pangil, Laguna and aged 16 and 17. Calungsod said Ruel Maligay, 23, jobless of Barangay Callos in this town was arrested for homicide. He also announced the arrest of Jonathan Durante, 27, laborer and resident of Barangay Bulihan, Famy town, for the crime of murder.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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ERIK ARAZAS

CLOSE-UP of the first jail guard, Edgar Dajay, killed by the escaping prisoners early last Monday. He had reportedly planned to retire early.

VIGIL for fallen jail guards Edgar Dajay and Amadeo Salapate (inset) at the Camp Bagong Diwa chapel.

ERIK ARAZAS

DIALOGUE with the Muslim community in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City, is conducted by NCRPO chief Gen. Avelino Razon following the killings of Muslim prisoners at Camp Bagong Diwa.

MITCH MAURICIO

DOJ bares Abu Sayyaf's Holy Week plot

From page A1

Baharan, 35, also said that an Abu Sayyaf leader still at large, Khadaffy Janjalani, claimed to speak directly with al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden via satellite phone. It was unclear whether that was a boast by Janjalani to impress his men.

Baharan was one of three suspects captured and charged last month for bomb attacks that killed eight people and wounded more than 100 on Feb. 14 in the cities of Makati, Davao and General Santos. The Abu Sayyaf said it launched the attacks as retaliation for military assaults on Moro rebels in Mindanao.

Although the militants' ranks have been largely depleted by US-backed military assaults, the government still considers the group a major threat.

Such concerns were highlighted by a botched jailbreak on Monday in which Abu Sayyaf suspects seized guards' weapons in a melee that left five people dead. An ensuing 29-hour standoff ended when police stormed the prison in a hail of gunfire on Tuesday and killed 22 inmates, including three prominent Abu Sayyaf commanders.

Apparently not wanting to stir up more emotions from Tuesday's police assault on Camp Bagong Diwa, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday prodded the people not to dwell on the violent incident.

"Let us move on," she told reporters in Zamboanga Sibugay province. "Let us put that behind us. Let us . . . concentrate on jobs, the economy. That is why I am here."

Since Wednesday, Ms Arroyo has been out of town, visiting Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday and Zamboanga City yesterday. She is expected to be in Basilan today.

In Manila, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said it was now "more important" for the government to "return to our economic and fiscal agenda."

"There is no more reason to belabor (the incident)," Bunye said in a statement issued in Malacañang.

He underscored the need for government to focus on attaining fiscal stability, attracting more investments and generating jobs.

Converts

Medalle said the "graduates" were mostly Christians who had converted to Islam and were sometimes called "balik-Islam." They were reportedly trained in Central Mindanao, to where the Abu Sayyaf had moved recently.

"Recruiting and converting to Islam a Christian is the easiest way to penetrate the western ways (of the largely Christian population)," said Medalle.

He said the new recruits could serve as effective "sleepers" because they could blend in with the people in largely Christian areas in Metro Manila.

In addition, Islam converts have proven themselves "more zealous" in their new-found faith, according to the prosecutor.

He cited the case of Angelo Trinidad, alias Boy Negro, who had confessed to the Makati bombing, and a Redando Delosa, a suspect in the SuperFerry bombing and the Dos Palmas kidnapping.

Sit in the middle

Medalle said a person knowledgeable about the Abu Sayyaf's operations advised him to be careful when going to (Catholic) churches next week.

"If you go to church, don't sit on the last rows or in the side of the pews. Better sit in the middle," he said.

He said the information was relayed to him in the form of an "advice."

"I don't want to be alarmist, but people should be alerted," he said. But he also advised the public not to panic.

Medalle had been a regional prosecutor in Zamboanga City before he was assigned to handle the cases of Abu Sayyaf members in Manila.

He said he had handled cases involving members of the group for about nine years now.

Medalle, 50, had to relocate his family to Manila for security reasons.

Asked why he seemed to have made a long and deep study of the Abu Sayyaf, he replied: "We have to understand the way they think."

Key gov't installations

Another DOJ prosecutor said the department had also received reports that the Abu Sayyaf also planned to bomb the DOJ building on Padre Faura, Manila, and other key government installations.

"They will try to get in and plant the bomb and if they failed to do so, they will try to crash the gates with bombs in their vehicles," he said, although he dismissed the information as far-fetched.

Still, he said DOJ officials were not taking the report lightly and had beefed up security at the DOJ compound.

Partly assembled bomb

Police yesterday removed a partly assembled bomb from an upper floor of a high-rise building in Pasig City, an official said.

Director Avelino Razon, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, could not say whether the discovery of the device in the Ortigas business district was tied to a bombing threat by the Abu Sayyaf.

A police ordnance team retrieved a shoe box from a 15th floor toilet that contained "a crystalline substance, a watch and some wires. There were no blasting caps or timing device," he said.

"The IED (improvised explosive device) was not rigged to explode," he said over local radio. "Maybe it was just put there to frighten us."

Scuba training in Palawan

During questioning, Baharan said Abu Sayyaf leaders Janjalani and Abu Soliman, working with Jemaah Islamiyah, had initiated scuba training for seasoned fighters to prepare for seaborne attacks, according to the military report.

Last October, Baharan was told to undergo scuba training in Palawan, the report said. He periodically received cell phone messages from Janjalani and Soliman "asking him how many fathoms he would be able to dive," the report said.

Satellite phone

His training was in preparation for a Jemaah Islamiyah bombing plot on unspecified targets outside the Philippines that would require "underwater operation," the report quoted him as saying.

Baharan also disclosed that Janjalani was alive, contrary to speculation he had been killed in a military air strike, and said that the Abu Sayyaf chieftain claimed he communicated with Bin Laden by satellite phone, the report said.

That could represent a boast by Janjalani to impress his men, and military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were unable to verify it.

The interrogation report said: "Subject averred that Janjalani has a direct contact to Osama bin Laden and (Bin Laden's brother-in-law) Mohammed Jamal Khalifa. Janjalani is using a satellite phone in contacting both leaders. Subject further averred that Bin Laden would ... talk to no one except Janjalani. They conversed in Arabic."

He told interrogators that he and another militant, Khalil Trinidad, were ordered by Soliman to bomb a bus in Manila last month to divert the military's attention away from an offensive against rebels in Sulu.

During a court hearing, a bus conductor identified Baharan and Trinidad as passengers who hurriedly left the bus shortly before the blast.

Both suspects pleaded innocent in court on Monday. *With reports from AP and AFP*

AFP: How can kidnappers be martyrs?

From page A1

civilians, who killed and raped hostages?" Pascual said, referring to Abu Sayyaf leaders Alhamzer Manatad Limbong (Commander Kosovo), Ghalib Andang (Commander Robot) and Nadzmi Sabdula (Commander Global).

But the head of a Moro-Christian group said several of the 22 suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf gunned down by police in the shootout Tuesday were "innocent casualties."

Amirah Ali Lidasan, Moro Christian People's Alliance (MCPA) secretary general, said that among the "innocent casualties" were 75-year-old Ahmad Upao (the oldest detainee who had Alzheimer's disease), Ibnohasser Agasi, Ahmad Arawangsa, Ibrahim Joe Arip, Gaffar Mundi and Badran Abdulhamid.

"Out of the more than 400 inmates, only 10 were identified as Abu Sayyaf hostage-takers. The 22 who were killed were more than half of the identified Abu Sayyaf participants in the crisis," Lidasan said.

Speaking to the INQUIRER from Mindanao, Lidasan said: "The operatives need not spray bullets indiscriminately at the inmates for this will surely hit innocent inmates used by Abu Sayyaf [members] as human shields in their hostage-taking."

Compelling evidence lack

The MCPA maintains that many of the almost 130 detainees listed as members of the Abu Sayyaf at the Bicutan jail were arrested during the 2001 crackdown on suspected terrorists in Basilan.

Lidasan said the MCPA and the human rights group Karapatan had been working for their release due to the lack of compelling evidence against them.

Both groups have been working for the release of the so-called Basilan 73, including the six identified by Lidasan as "innocent casualties," residents of Basilan who were among those rounded up on suspicion that they were members of the bandit group.

She condemned Kosovo, Robot and Global for starting the Bicutan crisis. "The jail has always been peaceful until Kosovo arrived there," Lidasan said.

Hatred

Lidasan did not spare Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, who she said may have stoked the flames of hatred among the Moro people because he ordered the assault on Camp Bagong Diwa.

Lidasan said Reyes brought back to mind his role in the all-out war in Maguindanao in 2000, the military crackdown in 2001 and the Pikit bombing in 2003 that forced thousands of families to leave their homes.

Reyes has maintained that all means for a peaceful solution to the standoff had been exhausted before government forces stormed the building where the Abu Sayyaf members were holed up.

"The troops were under instructions to spare those who didn't offer any resistance," Reyes said.

Correct handling

He urged the public to appreciate the efforts of the policemen, who risked their lives in retaking the prison from the Abu Sayyaf inmates.

In the House of Representatives, legislators rejected the notion that the members of the Abu Sayyaf, who died during the police assault, were summarily executed.

Rep. Rodito Albano (Kampi, Isabela) and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said it was wrong to paint the successful police action against the Abu Sayyaf members as a "massacre."

Albano believed that what actually happened was "a close-quarters battle with armed and dangerous terrorists, who had hurt and killed inmates and policemen during their bloody takeover of the Camp Bagong Diwa prison in Taguig."

Nograles said the government was correct in handling the situation.

The two lawmakers said critics of the police, including Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Joel Virador, should remember that the Abu Sayyaf "criminals" were given ample time to surrender.

Virador had called for an inquiry into the assault, saying the Abu Sayyaf leaders were "more useful alive than dead as they held strategic information on the workings of their organization."

Alarmed

Military officials were "very alarmed" that ordinary Muslims regarded the men as martyrs.

"This is the distorted interpretation (of the Koran that is taught) by the Tabligh," Pascual said.

The Tabligh is a group of male preachers in the Middle East who are suspected of teaching radical Islam.

Linked to the "terrorist" al-Qaida organization, these preachers had "twisted" the teachings in the Koran, according to Pascual.

"It's an eye-opener to moderate Muslims that the teachings of the Tabligh, of the Jemaah Islamiyah, are now recognized by common Muslims and not only by the rebels," he said. "It's very alarming."

Correct wrong leadership

He said Muslim clerics or the "*ulama*" have to step in "to address this wrong teaching of the Koran. They have to correct the wrong teachings." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac*

6 Abus survive jail assault

By Luige A. del Puerto

AT LEAST six Abu Sayyaf members, who might have taken part in the jailbreak attempt, survived the police assault that killed 22 detainees on Tuesday, a junior police official said yesterday.

"At least six men were mentioned as part of the jailbreak attempt. They're alive," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said fellow detainees had told investigators that the six Abu Sayyaf members helped disarm guards during the routine head count on Monday. (The escape try failed, forcing the Abu Sayyaf men to seize control of the four-story jail that also housed a total of 469 inmates.)

"The detainees said they were involved in the jailbreak. They helped disarm the jail guards. We are not sure if they shot it out with our men," the official said.

But investigators have nonetheless tested them for powder burns.

"The investigators should do it [paraffin test] within 72 hours to be sure about the results," he said.

Initial police reports placed at 10 to 15 men the number of "hard core" Abu Sayyaf members involved in the jailbreak attempt.

Some 22 detainees died when the Special Action Force, armed with semi-automatic rifles, grenades and bullet-proof vests, stormed the building on Tuesday morning.

Senior Supt. Federico Laciste, head of the investigating team, neither confirmed nor denied the possibility that men involved in the jailbreak attempt were alive.

"We are looking into everything," the chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region said.

Laciste promised an investigation so thorough it would be like "writing a book."

"We will look into everything," he told the INQUIRER.

Investigators would even try to trace the trajectory of the bullets fired by both the assault team and the Abu Sayyaf men.

But Rep. Mujiv Hataman, who negotiated with the inmates together with Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, yesterday called for an independent inquiry.

"To investigate is the job of the police. But since they were part of the assault, there should be an independent inquiry," Hataman said.

Rep. Francisco "Chiz" Escudero was already calling for one, he disclosed.

"Doubts must be dispelled. There are many who believed it was a massacre. I've received reports that [Commander] Robot did not fight. Up to the very last minute, Governor Hussin was talking to Global, who said he could not get out because the cells were padlocked. Global had insisted he had no part in it," Hataman said.

"All these must be answered by an independent inquiry," he added.

Las Vegas odds favoring Pinoy sensation zoom up

From page A1

was pegged a plus-115 underdog, meaning a $100 bet on the Mexican fight icon would win $115.

He was only a plus-110 underdog the other day.

This development surprised many Filipino fans of Pacquiao, who had looked forward to a better deal before putting money on their idol.

Big favorite

Numerous Pinoy fans hit the jackpot in 2003 when Pacquiao was rated a 3-1 underdog against Marco Antonio Barrera, whom he proceeded to maul and stop in the 11th round.

Pacquiao was also a big favorite when he fought Juan Manuel Marquez here last May in a fight that ended in a draw.

Bettors here generally feel Pacquiao would win over Morales by virtue of his conquest of Barrera in 2003.

Nedal Hussein, who once floored Pacquiao, feels it will be the Filipino by stoppage—but Morales might win if the fight lasts the distance.

True logic

It may not be so, as explained in the website doghouseboxing.com which said "true logic says Pacquiao's victory over Barrera doesn't cement one over Morales."

Continued the same website: "Logic may say that because Pacquiao handled Barrera so easily and Morales lost to Barrera twice, then Pacquiao will do the same to Morales."

It's doubtful this thing will happen, warned the analysis. "Local perception differs from person to person, and in boxing so many times, logic has so many illogical overtones."

The odds prevailing in the Pacquiao-Morales fight could be one of those inexplicable overtones.

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEAT PROCESSORS, INC. (PAMPI)

inducts its 2005 Officers & Directors today

FELIX O. TIUKINHOY, JR.
President
Virginia Food, Inc.

THEME:
COOPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

March 18, 2005, 7:00 p.m. Quezon Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap leads the induction of the new officers and directors of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors of the Philippines, Inc. (PAMPI) at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City today.

The presence of Secretary Yap in the event speaks well of the association's 16th anniversary theme "Cooperating with the Government for Economic Recovery" and highlights the growing partnership between the government and the private sector in achieving food security for the nation.

Francisco J. Buencamino, who was reappointed as PAMPI executive director, said the meat processing industry is a major partner of the Department of Agriculture in making available to the Filipino people high-quality and affordable food products.

"Such partnership brings PAMPI closer to its objective of providing affordable, safe, wholesome, and high-quality meat products to the Filipino consumers and the government to its primary goal of ensuring food security," Buencamino said.

The PAMPI anniversary and induction night highlights the contribution of the P60-billion meat processing industry to the Philippine economy, which is now feeding more than 80 million Filipino consumers.

To be inducted as PAMPI officers are Felix Tiukinhoy Jr. of Virginia Foods Inc., who was reelected for the sixth time as president; Jerome Ong of Foodsphere Inc., vice president; Joyce Alcoreza of Dealco Inc., secretary; Cezar Cruz Jr. of Monterey Foods, treasurer; and Vivian Lim of GenOSI Inc., PRO.

Elected as board directors are Rey Lapid of R. Lapid's Chicharon, Ricky Hizon of Pampanga's Best, Butch Prieto of RFM Inc., and Allan Castro of The Purefoods-Hormel Corp.

Helping the government nourish the economy is a major thrust of the PAMPI, a group of more than 30 private companies which support the government's goal of ensuring food security for the country by making available to as many people high-quality, yet affordable food products.

Food accounts for more than half of the average personal consumption expenditure in the Philippines. Production, processing and trade of food commodities remain the largest contributor to the overall economic growth and the main driver for the three major components of the gross domestic product (GDP), namely: agriculture, industry and services.

Meat processing, for one, has become a very important segment of the Philippine economy as the population grew to a base of more than 80 million consumers. The meat processing industry now contributes over P60 billion to the GDP annually and provides 60,000 direct and indirect jobs. It supports businesses such as packaging, canning, advertising, printing, media, retail trade, among others.

A healthy economy is mainly driven by robust domestic demand. The association plays an important role in exciting such demand by offering high-quality, affordable meat products that meet the international standards.

With the shift to new technologies, the members of the association have managed to keep prices of their products within the means of the masses, enabling the Filipino consumers to spend more for other expenditures such as mobile phones and services that have been responsible for stimulating the economy over the past five years.

The Philippine economy faces a number of challenges, among which is the chronic fiscal problem that now forces the government to impose additional taxes including on food products. In the face of intensifying economic activities and such challenges, the association still holds on to the position that food security cannot be compromised, both in terms of supply and prices.

Prices of goods and services in the country began to climb in the middle of 2004 on the back of surging crude oil prices in the world market. A round of oil price hikes in the local market, followed by increases in transportation fares, pushed up the prices of agricultural raw materials.

While prices of canned meat products remain relatively low, such prices may not hold at such level for long if the government decides to raise the tariff wall on imported tinplates - the basic materials for cans. The proposed two-percentage-point increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate may also exacerbate the situation if it is designed in such a way that it will be passed on to consumers. If prices continue to runaway this year, there is a risk that the flow of food supply can get interrupted.

The association believes that now is the time for the private sector to cooperate with the government in the delivery of goods to the public. Processed meat products have given the poor consumers a respite from high prices of other commodities but a move such as increasing the tariff on tin plates to perpetuate the monopoly of the National Steel Corp. would harm not only the packaging industry but more so the consuming public.

Packaging is a major cost component of the food industry, and therefore an increase in the cost of tin plates will definitely affect the prices of food items.

On the proposed increase in VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent, PAMPI encourages the government to study the presumptive three-percent input VAT for meat processors to reward them for improving the value of fresh meat into high-quality processed meat. At present, the sector that adds on value on raw materials, which are exempt from taxes, is made to bear the full burden of VAT.

As PAMPI inducts its incoming board of directors and officers, the association reaffirms its commitment to high quality standards in meat processing. Prior to the induction, the association is holding a Technical Summit on Manufacturing Technologies to be attended by international experts on March 17 and 18 to discuss the transfer of latest technologies to local meat processors as a way of making them more globally competitive.

The association searches for developed technologies to improve the cost efficiency in packaging, processing, formulation, and even in creation of variants of processed meat that will contribute to lower prices. If this effort bears success, the association will once again make its significant contribution in achieving stability in the prices and supply of food in the country.

It can be recalled that the switch to Indian buffalo meat from more expensive beef in other countries in the early 1990s was a major move on the part of PAMPI that gave millions of poor Filipino consumers affordable access to processed meat products, which used to be sold at atrociously high prices.

Despite the high inflation rates over the past several years, it is the meat processing industry that has been working with the government to hold off any increases in the prices of processed meat to ease the burden on the Filipino consumers. As a result, consumers can still buy hotdogs today at the same prices four years ago. Aside from hotdogs, other meat products such as corned beef, sausage, burger patties and tocino are now produced in package sizes and sold within the means of the average consumers.

In the pursuit of cooperative endeavors with the government, PAMPI members continue to look for other ways and means so that they will keep prices of their products as best as they can. At the same time, the association thanks the government for making available imported raw materials that are processed into affordable meat products for the Filipinos.

The government should be commended for working diligently in consultation with PAMPI and other private sector groups, which are doing their part by contributing their inputs on policies and issues.

JEROME D. ONG
Vice-President
CDO-Foodsphere, Inc

JOCELYN B. ALCOREZA
Secretary
Dealco Farms

CEZAR D. CRUZ, JR.
Treasurer
Monterey Foods Corp.

VIVIAN C. LIM
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R. Lapid's Chicharon

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Pampanga's Best

BUTCH V. PRIETO
Director
RFM Corporation

ALLAN N. CASTRO
Director
The Purefoods-Hormel Co.

FRANCISCO J. BUENCAMINO
Executive Director

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

I. Fellowship Dinner	
a) National Anthem	Ms. Julieta M. Manalo Nenita Quality Foods Corp.
b) Doxology	Ms. Jesusa S. Baller Jaka Foods Processing Corp.
II. Program Proper	
a) Welcome Remarks	Mr. Jerome D. Ong CDO-Foodsphere, Inc.
b) Introduction of Members	Ms. Chiqui S. Diy Secretariat, PAMPI
c) Introduction of Guests	Mr. Mario A. King King's Quality Foods
d) Presentation of New Officers and Directors	Mr. Dindo A. Danao Ms. Chiqui S. Diy
e) Induction Ceremonies	Hon. Arthur C. Yap Secretary, Department of Agriculture
f) Acceptance Speech	Mr. Felix O. Tiukinhoy, Jr. President, PAMPI
g) Introduction of Guest of Honor	Mr. Francisco J. Buencamino Executive Director, PAMPI
h) Keynote Speech	Hon. Arthur C. Yap
i) Closing Remarks	Mr. Cezar D. Cruz, Jr. Monterey Foods Corp.
III. Entertainment	Musicale

Hosted by:
Mr. Carlo Hizon, Pampanga's Best
Mr. Francisco Buencamino, PAMPI Executive Director

MESSAGES

I am privileged to extend my warmest felicitations to the new set of officers and board of directors, as well as the other members, of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI) on the occasion of your 16th Anniversary and 2005-2006 Induction Ceremonies.

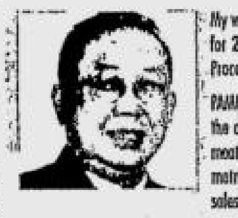
We at the Department of Agriculture consider PAMPI and other players of the meat processing industry — who produce over P60-billion worth of meat products annually and provide 60,000 direct and indirect jobs nationwide — as key partners in attaining one of our so-called "Goal 2," that is, make available quality basic food items at affordable and competitive prices. In particular, we commend the association members for constantly employing modern technologies to further improve cost efficiencies in processing, formulation, creation of new by-products and variants, and packaging — all aimed at continuously providing Filipino consumers adequate, affordable, safe, wholesome and world-class meat products.

For our part, the DA family will relentlessly assist the industry by providing a conducive and healthy business environment through appropriate policies and programs.

And may I take this opportunity to enjoin the new PAMPI leaders and members to remain united and focused, and continue to work harmoniously with the other food supply chain stakeholders — farmers, small and commercial poultry and livestock raisers, integrators, slaughterhouse operators, traders, retailers, and consumers—so we can attain our shared goals of making the country's agriculture and fishery sector globally competitive, a major source of employment and income, and a reliable provider of affordable, world-class food products.

May our DA-PAMPI partnership grow ayon "meatier" and stronger. Congratulations and more power. Mabuhay ang PAMPI!

ARTHUR C. YAP
SECRETARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE



My warmest greetings to the officers and board members for 2005-2006 of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI) on their induction into office.

PAMPI has been a crucial partner of the government on the development of the livestock sector particularly the meat processing industry. It's combined output of 500,000 metric tons of processed meat annually worth P70B in sales turnover is absolutely commendable.

The meat processing industry is in the best position to produce nutritional yet affordable processed meat so that a larger segment of our people can have access to proper nutrition. This is the challenge I pose to the incoming officers and directors of PAMPI.

Again, congratulations and *MABUHAY!!!*

JOSE Q. MOLINA, DVM, MVS
DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

My warmest greetings to the members of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc (PAMPI) on the occasion of its induction of officers and Board of Directors officers. I want to specially extend my congratulations to the new officers and members of the Board of Directors of PAMPI. As you begin with your new task as leaders of this prestigious organization, may you keep the tradition of excellence and service that was started by those who went ahead of you. Likewise, I hope that your organization as a whole will remain steadfast in practicing excellence in the meat processing industry.

I want to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to PAMPI for all its efforts to help the government in uplifting our meat processing industry. PAMPI is one organization that has fostered among its members a strong sense of diligence in following the rules and regulations crafted by the government. As such, the organization has contributed greatly to the improvement of our quality and safety assurance program.

May you remain as a good model for other private organizations in forging strong partnerships with the government. You can always count on the support of the whole DA-NMIS family in your pursuit of noble things for the meat industry and the country in general.

Mabuhay po kayo!

EFREN C. NUESTRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE

To all the Members of PAMPI:

We are celebrating today the 16th year of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc., prouder that we have grown bigger as a sector of the food industry, stout-hearted that we knowingly contributed to improved food security of our country through steady supply of our products at affordable prices, and we stand tall over like-minded associations because of the nobility of our purpose, of our mindset, and of our motivation.

Many threats have been hurled at the viability of our industry in the past 16 years. We have overcome these hurdles and the threats. This year, another brand of threat is before us- one that proposes to shake down our unity by threatening to break down our membership into pieces. Our successes in advocacy in the past have increased our influence within the food industry and the organization of another similar association has been encouraged clearly to create to alternative influence to weaken PAMPI. Because we are united, these attempts will surely fail.

This is the time that we need to stay together, think alike, and be moved by the noble purpose and objective by which we associated with each other. I call upon all PAMPI members to be aware of today's threat and to be careful not to be used by others who seek beneficial gains through our record of success.

Let us move forward and be stronger as an industry sector. Today's anniversary affair will be a testimonial to this resolve.

Thank you.

FELIX O. TIUKINHOY, JR.
PRESIDENT-PAMPI

Member Companies: A. TUNG CHINGCO CENTER • BURGER MACHINE, INC. • CDO-FOODSPHERE, INC. • DALISAY FARMS CORP. • DEL MONTE PHILS., INC. • DEALCO FARMS • ELDON INDUSTRIAL CORP. • EURO-SWISS FOOD, INC. • GENOSI, INC. • GOLD RIBBON FOODS, INC. • JAKA FOOD PROCESSING CORP. • JOLLIBEE FOOD CORP. • KING SUE HAM & SAUSAGES CO. • KING'S QUALITY FOODS • LAMI FOOD PRODUCTS CORP. • LESLIE FOOD CORP. • MLM FOODS, INC. • MONTEREY FOODS CORP. • MOTHER EARTH PRODUCTS, INC. • NENITA QUALITY FOODS CORP. • NEW FOOD COATINGS, INC. • PAMPANGA'S BEST • RENO FOODS • RFM CORPORATION • R. LAPID'S CHICHARON • ROEL'S FOOD CORP. • SOUTHERN PROCESSING CORP. • SUNPRIDE FOODS, INC. • TASTER'S FOOD • THE PACIFIC MEAT CO., INC. • THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL CO. • VIRGINIA FOOD, INC. • VELFRAM FOODS CORP. • PRIVATE CAPITAL OF ASIA, LTD. • WCD INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORP. (Secretariat)

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VERGEL DE DIOS GIVES IT ONE MORE WEEK

Edsa pink fences to stay, says MMDA

By Tarra V. Quismundo

UNDETERRED by the barrage of complaints and criticisms over its pink fences on portions of Edsa, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said the barriers would stay for at least one more week.

"Give us the benefit of the doubt," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director. "It's not a one-shot observation. But to make it simple, we would be working to make it better."

Vergel de Dios explained that the fences were part of a three-week traffic management experiment aimed at easing congestion on Edsa.

After the three-week wait-and-see period, agency officials will assess the scheme and brainstorm for possible amendments.

"We're now into two weeks, so there's one week more. After this, we would make adjustments depending on recommendations of our officers," said Vergel de Dios yesterday, lamenting the downpour of complaints about the steel fences.

However, the traffic director said the end of the observation period would not mean the removal of steel fences. Instead, he added, options would be explored to make the fences work better.

"Before we put up the fences, traffic was already bad in those areas," Vergel de Dios said, referring to portions of Edsa where fences had been put up, particularly those on the southbound lane from Santolan Road to Ortigas Avenue and near the Magallanes interchage in Makati City.

The MMDA erected pink fences on portions of Edsa to segregate buses from light vehicles by limiting the public utility vehicles to the two outer lanes of the thoroughfare. On the average, some 3,000 buses make some 107,000 trips along Edsa daily.

Vergel de Dios said agency officials, traffic operations officers and traffic enforcers posted in areas where pink fences had been erected, had been meeting regularly to tackle the steel barriers scheme.

"We are doing something that seems to have not yielded results yet, so we have to think of other ways to satisfy the people," he added.

The MMDA had begun procuring tube lights which would be installed on the openings within the steel fences that serve as access points for light vehicles.

Vergel de Dios said the tube lights shall serve as warning devices for motorists using the openings at night.

'PASYON' STILL ALIVE
A woman leads the traditional Pabasa or Pasyon, a Lenten ritual, in a home in Sampaloc, Manila. The Pabasa, which has been practiced since Spanish times, is a rendition in song of the passion of Christ.

Rehab plan proposed for QC sex workers

By DJ Yap

PERSONS exploited and pushed into the sex trade in Quezon City may soon get better protection from the law, and would be made to undergo counseling and rehabilitation.

Patrons of commercial sex workers, pimps, and establishments condoning prostitution, on the other hand, won't get off that easily.

Quezon City Councilor Antonio Inton Jr. has proposed an ordinance giving better protection and support services to exploited sex workers. He said sex workers who got into the illegal flesh trade because they were subjected to threats, deception, coercion, abduction or fraud are victims of sexual exploitation, and should be supported by the city through counseling and rehabilitation programs.

Anti-prostitution laws often worked against sex workers, particularly women and children, while patrons were frequently shielded from the law, he added.

Inton proposed penalties of up to one year in jail, and a maximum of P5,000 in fines for regular sex workers, their patrons, pimps, and business establishments promoting the sex trade.

On the other hand, sex workers who were victims of exploitation shall undergo three months of mandatory counseling and rehabilitation under the Department of Social Welfare and Development, on the first offense.

But if the victim makes subsequent offenses, he or she would be jailed for one month up to one year, while continuing the mandatory counseling and rehabilitation programs.

Inton also proposed the creation of an anti-prostitution task force to develop programs addressing the problems of exploited sex workers.

These include launching an information campaign against prostitution, and providing sustainable livelihood skills, training, and financial support to the sex workers. Temporary shelter and health services would also be provided in anti-prostitution centers in the city.

Gastroenteritis afflicts 14 studes in Munti

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WAS IT the dessert?

At least 14 grade school students of De La Salle-Santiago Zobel School in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, were downed with gastroenteritis after attending their graduation ball Wednesday night.

The victims, all Grade 7 students aged 13 years old, experienced abdominal pains and loose bowel movement after eating mango and strawberry crepe served at the ball held in an upscale country club in Alabang, said the school doctor, who refused to disclose her name.

But the physician was quick to stress that they were still not sure whether the crepe actually caused the gastroenteritis.

Some of the students were rushed to the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa City, the doctor added.

Sought for comment, Asian Hospital personnel denied that any gastroenteritis cases were brought to them.

Gastroenteritis is the irritation and inflammation of the digestive tract. Food poisoning is one of the possible causes.

Abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness, fever or chills and dehydration are the common symptoms of gastroenteritis.

Two of the victims, who showed late signs of gastroenteritis, came to the school clinic yesterday morning while practicing for their graduation rites.

They complained of abdominal pain, the physician added.

A Muntinlupa City Hall official confirmed the incident and said some of the students were already sent home from the hospital after their condition had stabilized.

The official, who asked not to be named, also said the city health office already sent a team to the Asian Hospital to investigate the case.

The reported cases of gastroenteritis came on the heels of the deaths last week of 27 pupils of a public school in Bohol.

Pesticide contamination of a cassava delicacy had been eyed as the cause of the deaths.

Two funerals, and love that lasts

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHEN she was still strong, she would attend court hearings on the murder case of her daughter, slain actress Nida Blanca.

Yesterday, Inocencia G. Acueza, who died on Sunday, was finally laid to rest.

"I will miss her company and support," Blanca's daughter Kay Torres said after the funeral rites yesterday afternoon at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Acueza died on Sunday night due to complications from pneumonia. She was 91.

Blanca, Dorothy Jones in real life, was murdered three years ago in an office building in Greenhills, San Juan.

Authorities are after her husband Rod Lawrence Strunk, who allegedly planned and carried out her murder.

Being the only granddaughter, Torres said she was very close to Acueza.

"*Isa-isa niyang binabalatan ang butong pakwan. Iipunin niya ang laman. Tapos ipapadala niya sa akin sa* States (She would shell watermelon seeds one by one and send these to me in the States)," Torres said. "It was very touching. It was a labor of love," she added.

The funeral march began at 4 p.m. from the viewing chapel inside the park. By 4:30 p.m. her tomb, beside that of Blanca, was sealed.

At the Pasig City Cemetery earlier, the Serrantes family gathered for the funeral of Ralgy and Richard Serantes, the two brothers who drowned while trying to save passengers of a sinking boatin Pasig River last week.

Their parents and five siblings were all present at the event, the family's first reunion in recent years. Friends and neighbors joined the march from the family's shanty in Barangay Pineda to the cemetery.

The family reiterated their thanks to those who recognized the bravery of Ralgy and Richard, who were considered heroes by residents near the ferry landing. Others helped in paying for burial expenses, according to the brothers' uncle, Randy Nicoyco. The Negros Occidental provincial government shouldered the air fare of the brothers' mother and other relatives. Other Pasig officials and the Rotary Club of Pasig City also gave donations.

METROBRIEFS

Bomb in Ortigas

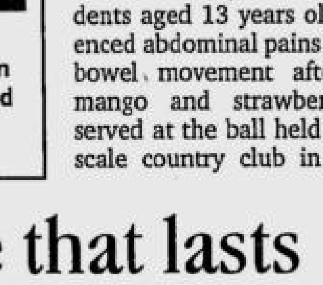
POLICE yesterday found an improvised explosive device inside a building at the Ortigas Business District in Pasig City. But the bomb, found inside a shoe box, did not explode because "it lacked some components," said Eastern Police District Director Oscar Valenzuela , quoting initial reports from bomb experts. The bomb was discovered inside a toilet by a janitor at the 15th floor of the Octagon Building on San Miguel Avenue . The police remain on full alert following a bloody jail break attempt in a detention cell inside the Bureau pf Jail Management and Penology in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City on March 14. At least 22 suspected Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the incident. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Osang's plea

SEXY Rosanna Roces held her head high before the judge and said: "Not guilty, your honor." The controversial celebrity and former television host thus answered two counts of libel filed against her by popular cosmetic surgeon Vicky Belo, in the Makati Regional Trial Court. Belo alleged that Roces had called her an "unethical doctor" and a mere "aerobics instructor" not licensed to perform liposuction in a TV interview. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

M. Block; 98

MAMERTA de los Reyes-Block, journalist, suffragette, freedom fighter and author, passed away on March 11 in Alexandria, Virginia at the age of 98. She will be buried today at the Quantico Marine Naval Base's Veteran's Cemetery, Virginia. She survived by husband Dr. Isaac Block, eight children, 26 grandchildren, and 36 great-grandchildren. Her first husband was Alfonso Mata. Pedro Blanco was her second husband.



JHOSUA

Missing

JHOSUA T. Lopez, a five-year-old boy from 1997 Guam St., Barangay La Paz, Makati City, has been missing since Sept. 2, 2004. Any information on his whereabouts may be relayed to Francisco "Boy" Lopez at 8707174 or 0921-4556469; or to Barangay La Paz Chair Elmer Espiritu at 8952755 or 8968762.

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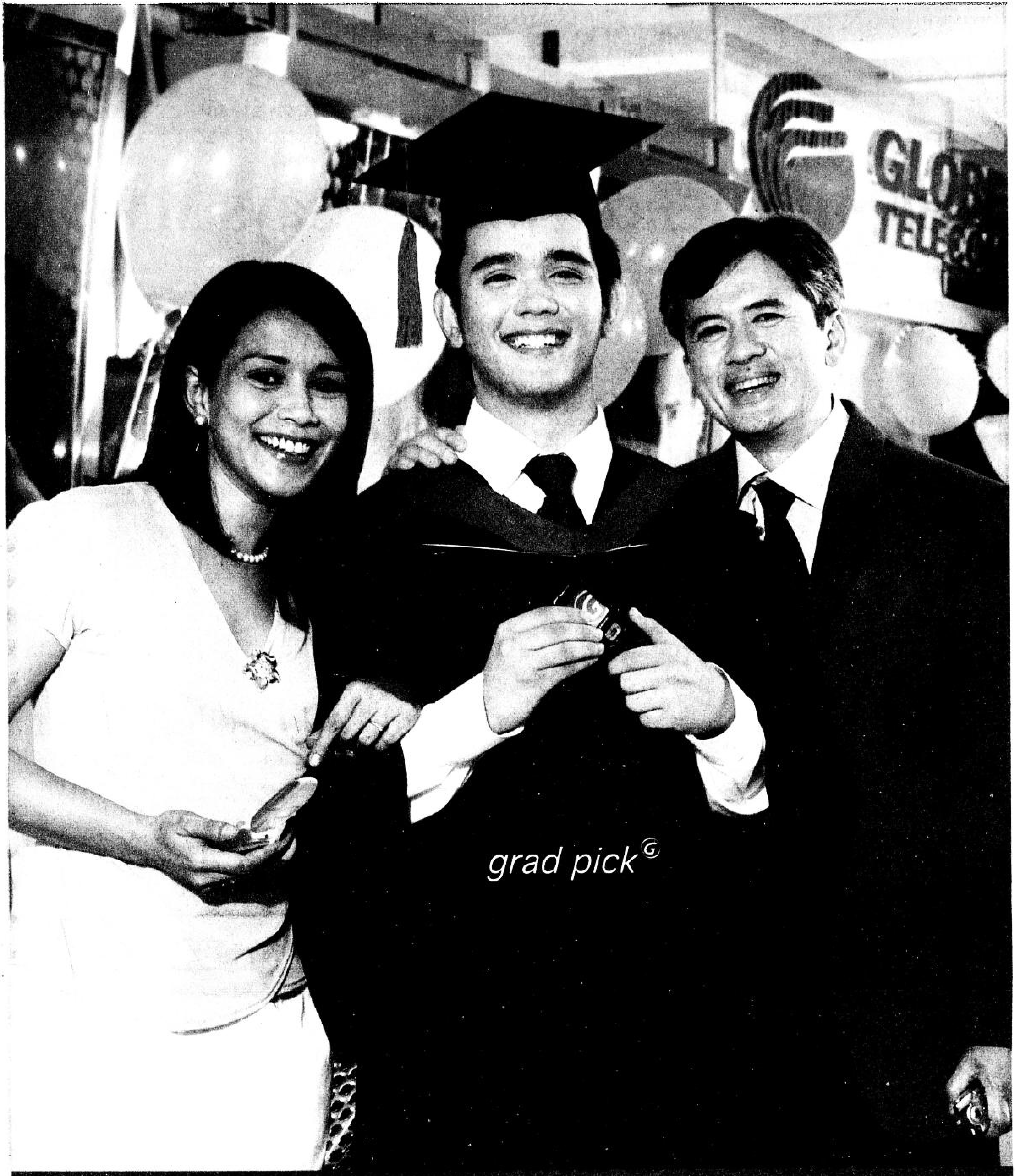
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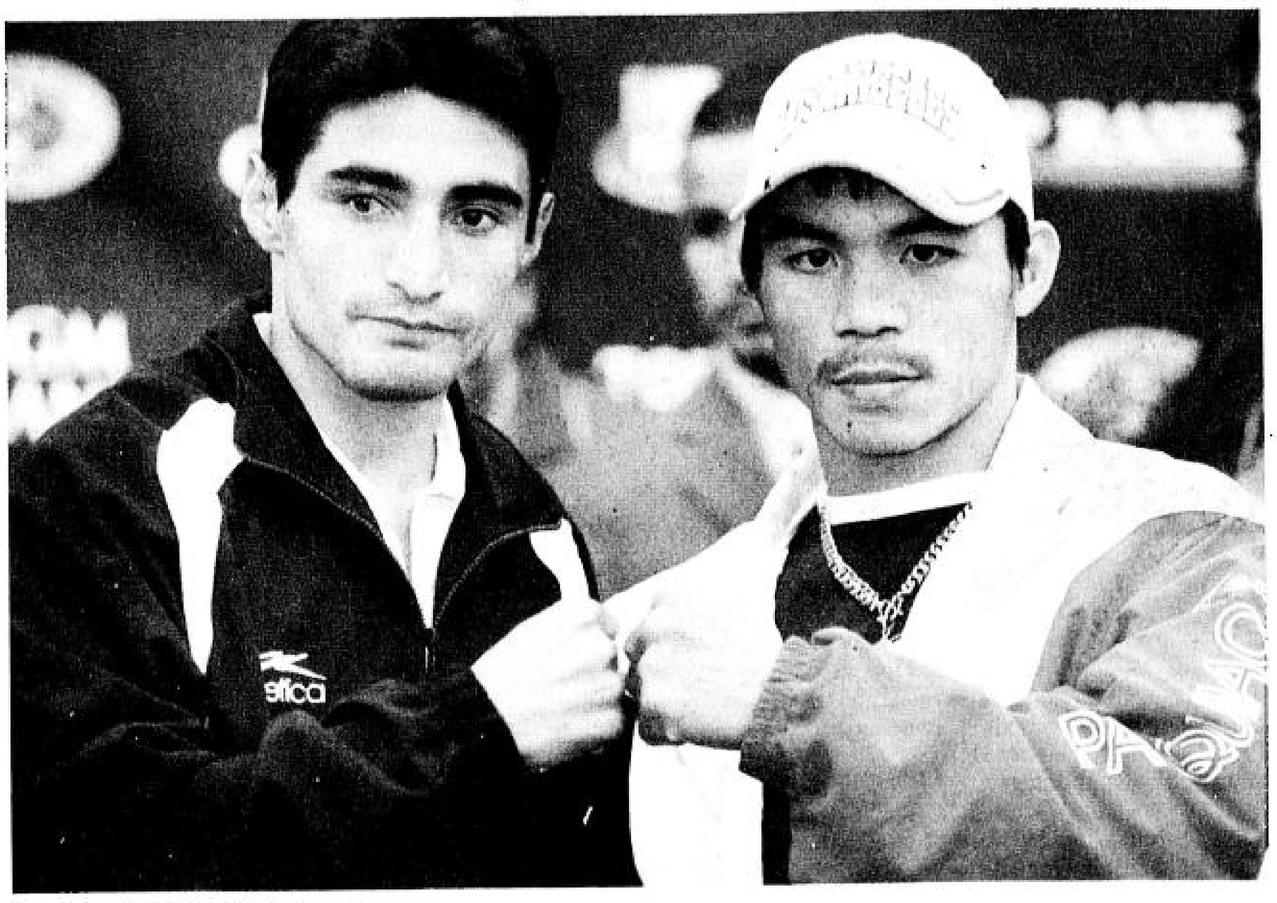

THE PROTAGONISTS
Manny Pacquiao (right) and Erik Morales of Tijuana, Mexico, pose during a news conference Wednesday (Thursday morning in manila) announcing their March 19 "Coming on with Everything" showdown at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. Despite being two inches shorter than the Mexican boxing icon (47-2-0 win-loss draw), Pacquiao (39-2-2) remains the betting favorite among oddsmakers in the world's gambling capital. REUTERS

Pacquiao attacked, called a quitter A26

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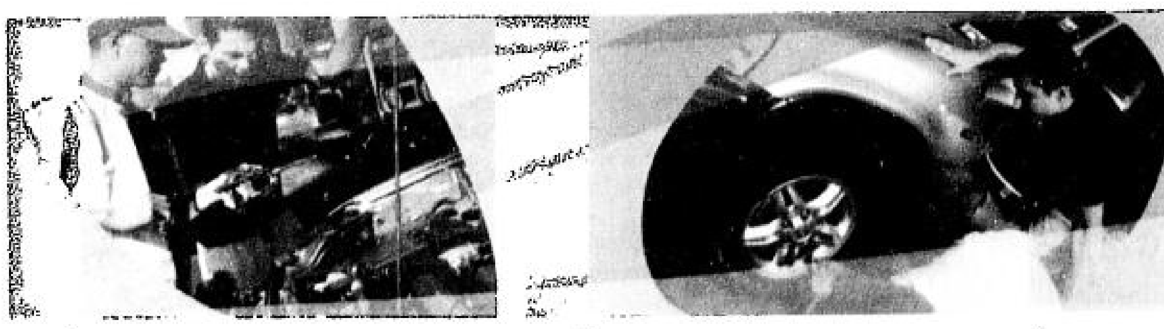

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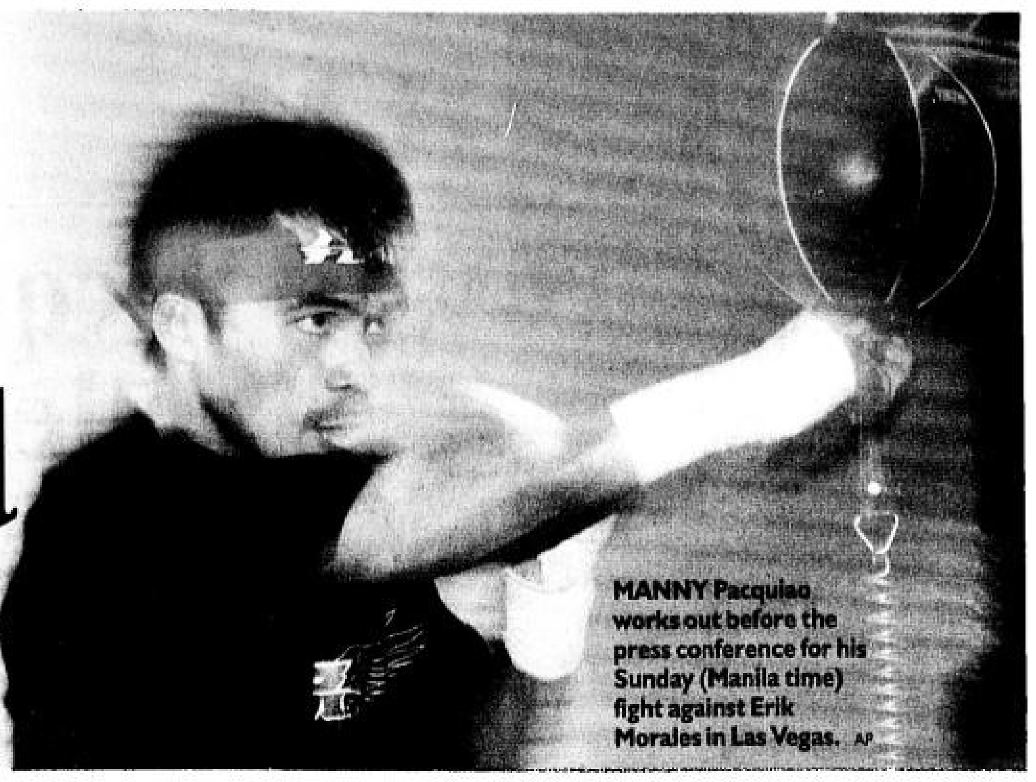
Pacquiao attacked and called a quitter



MANNY Pacquiao works out before the press conference for his Sunday (Manila time) fight against Erik Morales in Las Vegas. AP

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—After being threatened by a virus, Manny Pacquiao was attacked and called a quitter in public yesterday, three days before his monumental showdown with Mexican boxing icon Erik Morales, who praised his Filipino opponent as a powerful and dangerous fighter.

There was word from Pacquiao's suite that a sick hanger-on—shivery and obviously going down with the flu—has been disallowed from driving for the Filipino boxing superstar, who should be shielded from all forms of harm and hassle in the run-up to the biggest fight of his career.

However, Pacquiao and his people here, including a gang of kibitzers from Los Angeles, could only listen meekly as Morales' manager, Fernando Beltran, heaped verbal abuse on the Filipino boxing hero in an SRO press conference at the Studio A of the MGM Grand, venue of Saturday's boxing showdown being hyped as "Coming on with Everything."

Morales 'belittled'

Beltran socked it to Team Pacquiao which he claimed had belittled Morales by bragging "they're gonna take out Morales in one round, take out Morales in two rounds, 10 rounds, whatever."

Beltran, livid in a light gray coat, asked: "Everyone of you here, tell me, who has taken Morales out in 49 fights?"

"*Nadie* (no one)!" chorused the Mexicans in the conference hall.

"So, I would like to say to all of you: If someone is looking to quit a fight, it's Manny Pacquiao, not Erik Morales," Beltran said.

Pacquiao, brighter of face after shaving off the baby beard he wore when he checked in here Monday, stared blankly as Beltran belted away.

"Pacquiao," continued the Mexican manager, "once, he was hit with a body punch, he went down the canvas, he didn't want to continue fighting; second one, he was cut in a later fight, he stopped and wanted to end the fight."

Beltran blurted out: "Erik Morales has been cut, Erik Morales has been hurt, Erik Morales will never back up, he will never say that's the end, he will always fight one more round, two more rounds, whatever it takes to win a fight."

$100,000 bet

For the disrespect Team Pacquiao had supposedly done to Morales, Beltran dangled a $100,000 bet.

"Or put your money in your mouth," Beltran told Pacquiao people, then closed his attack and walked down the stage to a big applause.

Nobody in Team Pacquiao, led by promoter Murad Muhammad, who together with trainer Freddie Roach had incensed the Mexican side with their taunts, called the big bet.

The colorful and well-attended press conference promises to be a fitting lead-off to the March 19 event (Sunday morning in Manila) which, according to promoter Bob Arum, "is not a big fight, but a great event."

The tale of the tape showed Morales at 5 feet 8, a good two inches taller than Pacquiao, even though they appeared almost equal in height and in build as they stood face to face for photographers at the end of the media session.

Arum said the card should be a sure sellout, with only 2,000 of the 14,700 seats at the MGM Grand Garden waiting to be snatched.

Pacquiao spoke in straight English to the delight of the crowd. He asked fans not to miss the event because, he said, it will surely be a memorable one.

Morales acknowledged Pacquiao's speed and awesome form, calling the Filipino superstar a dangerous foe.

Loosening walks

Pacquiao, expected to breeze through the weigh-in, wound up his regular drills yesterday but will do some loosening walks until Friday.

It's an open secret Morales has been struggling to keep his weight down, although he no longer appeared frail and gaunt yesterday, unlike when he checked in from the cold following a long flight from Mexico City to this city the other day.

Morales, who reportedly completed 300 rounds of sparring in the mountains, compared to the 161 done by Pacquiao in LA, will continue to work out behind closed doors at the Top Rank gym here.

For the third straight night, Pacquiao and his close aides prayed the Holy Rosary in his suite.

Mayor Pedro Acharon of General Santos City, who joined the prayer group, said he no longer saw the sick driver who had threatened to contaminate the boxing hero among Pacquiao's hangers-on.

Gabi named GAB Boxer of the Month

KIDAPAWAN'S talented southpaw Diosdado "Prince" Gabi has been chosen by the Games and Amusements Board as its Boxer of the Month for February following his impressive performance over an Indon foe last Feb. 12 in Davao City.

GAB boxing division chief Emmanuel Flores, through member Tony Comia of the ratings committee, announced Gabi's selection, which was approved by GAB chair Eric Buhain.

The WBC No. 8 flyweight Gabi was cited for his first-round destruction of Jimmy Pinontoan of Indonesia in a scheduled 10-rounder.

Pinontoan and Gabi had battled to a draw in Jakarta in 2002. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

RP's Fuentes draws Thai; Salim loses

LANKY Filipino bantamweight Reman Salim of the SGG Stable was beaten via unanimous decision by Pan-Asian Boxing Association bantam champ Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym in their 12-round bout last Tuesday at the Srithep district in Petchaboon, Thailand.

The WBA No. 1 and mandatory challenger Poonsawat prevailed over Salim via scores of 120-118, 120-118, 119-110.

The loss saw Salim's record slip to 8-2, 2 KOs, while Poonsawat remains undefeated with 21-0, 15 KOs.

In the chief support, ALA Boy Rocky Fuentes figured in a 6-round draw with WBA No. 3 strawweight Chana Por Paoin. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

3 local referees expect Manny to clobber Erik

THREE of the country's best referees, who had worked Manny Pacquiao's previous fights, yesterday picked the Filipino ring to tear Erik Morales apart.

New Zealand's Bruce McTavish, a resident of Angeles City and the third man in the ring when Pacquiao defended his IBF super bantamweight crown against Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym of Thailand in 2002, says Pacquiao will win by knockout.

"*May puso* (my heart) belongs to Manny," McTavish said, while also cautioning the Filipino hero of a possible Morales win on points as the fight will be held in the Mexican's acknowledged second hometown.

Ferdinand Estrella, who worked Pacquiao's latest outing against Fahsan 3K Battery, said Morales "has been involved in more tougher fights, so his body might not be able to handle Pacquiao's attack."

Silvestre Abainza, who worked Pacquiao's bout against Serikzhan Yeshmagambetov at the Luneta, says Morales will reel from Pacquiao's power punches.

"*Lalagnatin si* Morales *sa suntok ni* Pacquiao. *Aabot ng* 50 *ang lagnat niya* (Morales will be feverish when he starts receiving Pacquiao's punches. His temperature will reach 50)," said the veteran referee, who is also a Makati cop.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Mental baggage for Morales

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I WENT to many places this week. And from many people I met, I got the same question: What is your prediction, Pacquiao or Morales?

And they all got the same answer: Pacquiao.

Why Pacquiao?

And I said, "Because he is simply the stronger puncher than Morales."

Among others, I told that to two town mayors only last Tuesday and Wednesday (March 15 and March 16, respectively)—Mayor Ponsing V. Soriano of Malasiqui, Pangasinan, and Mayor Jolly Resuello of San Carlos City, Pangasinan.

I almost told that also to Prof. Nick Melecio, a long lost relative from Dagupan City. And to lawyer Boy Solis, the long lost cousin of Nino Castrence.

But they were too busy doing business at the provincial capitol of Pangasinan that we never talked seriously about boxing.

"Oh, my cousin, Nino," said Boy Solis to me. "He found his pot of gold in Cagayan de Oro City, where he now lives like a king."

Boy and Nino both hail from Bolinao, Pangasinan, that seaside paradise not far from the Hundred Islands of Alaminos, Pangasinan.

Incidentally, Attorney Solis and Professor Nick M are the main men of Governor Aǵbayani of Pangasinan in the project to make my home province a model of solid waste management.

Oh, yes, also Dr. Guido Tiong, the city information officer of Mayor Resuello. Like Nick and Boy, the Doc and San Carlos City administrator Rudy Mandapat are also pushing for his city to adopt a clean and green program based on managing the city's solid wastes, beginning at the public market.

"I am all out in this project to make the city clean insofar as solid waste management is concerned," said Mayor Resuello, whose own son, the good-looking Ayoy, is his vice mayor.

Surprised that I'm suddenly talking about solid waste management?

If you haven't known about it yet, well, I've become a solid waste management convert. Mine, though, has gone one step further: I'm also into vermi-composting, a necessary component of solid waste management.

Hey, Batchoy (Henares) and Ramon (Uy), look what you've done.

Even chicks king Rob Dix has also embraced the beauty of your dream: Organic farming through vermi-composting. So with Julian Apostol, the Comelec chief of my hometown; he also now wants to go into it.

But lest I stray further from today's topic, which is boxing, let's leave it at that—for now.

"What would be the main key to a Pacquiao victory?" asked Pareng Julian, a boxing buff for nearly 40 years now.

"His punching power," I said. "In his last eight fights, Pacquiao scored seven knockouts. The only survivor was Juan Manuel Marquez, who bucked three knockdowns in the first round last May to salvage a controversial split draw."

"But Morales is also a knockout artist," Pareng Julian said. "His record is amazing."

He is right. Morales is 47-2, with 38 KOs.

But then, Morales' only two defeats—on points—had been inflicted by Marco Antonio Barrera. And you will note that Barrera was knocked out in the 11th round by Pacquiao in November 2003.

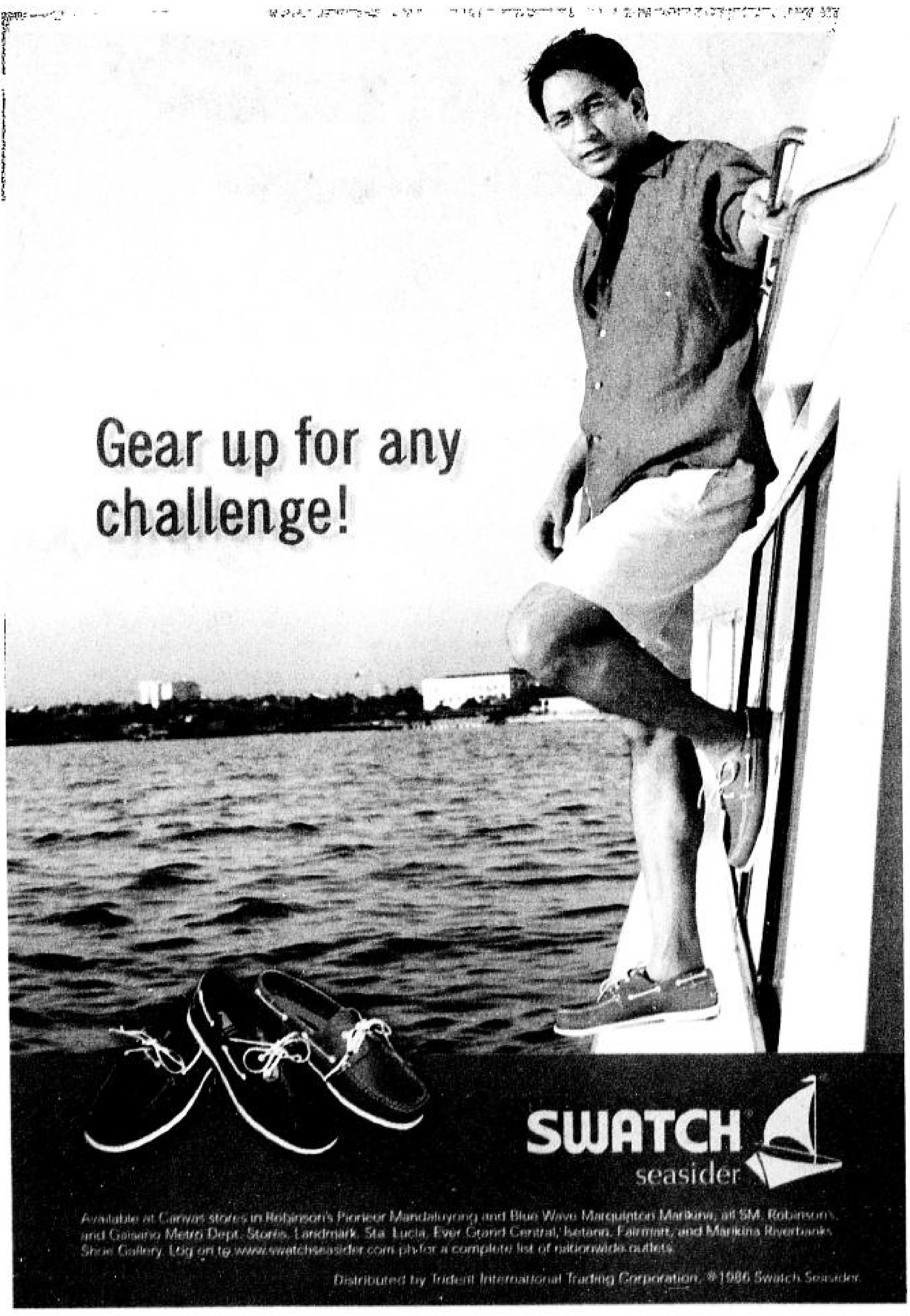
Psychologically, therefore, Pacquiao has a big edge. His KO victory over Barrera will surely be a mental baggage for Morales on fight day, Sunday, March 20.

"OK, then, let's go for Pacquiao, not because he is our countryman but because he has the better credentials than Morales," said Pareng Julian, whose youngest son, Alexis, was named after the boxing legend, Alexis Arguello.

If Morales would not fall within five rounds, Pacquiao could be in trouble.

***

FASTBREAK. Incidentally, Alexis Apostol will graduate on Sunday at the University of Baguio, the great institution in the Pines City owned by the family of Des and Auring Bautista. My salute to you, *inaanak*! ...Rudy Salud, the former PBA Commissioner who was the founding secretary general of the World Boxing Council when he was only 24 years old, will motor to Angeles City on Sunday to watch the Pacquiao-Morales fight at the residence of former Angeles City Mayor Ed Pamintuan. Pareng Rudy said to me yesterday: "Thank you, *pare*, for writing about the pay-per-view in Pampanga. I am not flying to Las Vegas anymore and instead, I'll watch the fight in Pampanga. But I will be represented there by my son, Chito." The revolutionary pay-per-view scheme, a first in the country, can be had for only P200, through Dennis Anthony Uy's ACCTN, Channel 67. Call 045-3235215 or 045-8928890 for more details.



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Seigle fires 43 as SMB survives SLR

By June Navarro

ORMOC CITY—With Chris Burgess fouling out in regulation, Danny Seigle knew he had to turn it on for San Miguel Beer.

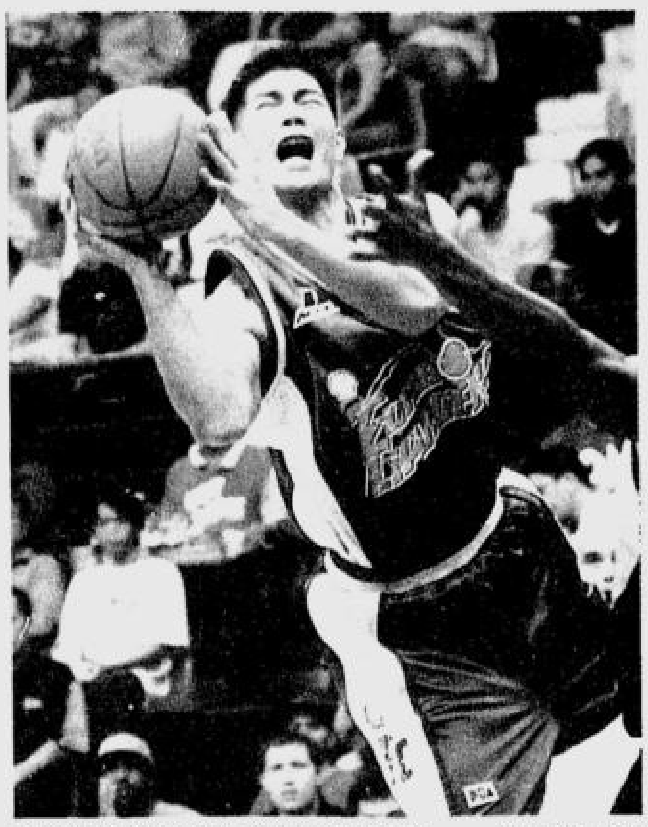
Firing a career-high 43 points, Seigle singlehandedly carried the Beermen past the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 97-94, in double overtime last night in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ormoc Superdome here.

Seigle unloaded his last 11 points in the two extra periods as the Beermen bravely recovered from a stinging defeat at the hands of the Red Bull Barako last Sunday.

The Beermen regained their lofty status at the top of the standings at 3-1 while sending the Realtors to their third setback in four games.

Paolo Mendoza's three-pointer with 2.5 seconds left in the first extra period tied the count at 90 and sent the game into a second overtime.

Kenneth Duremdes could have won it for the Realtors in regulation but his jumper with 1.6 ticks left missed its mark.



CRIS CALAGUIO: A vital cog for Shell. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Mendoza opened the fourth quarter with a triple that ignited a huge Sta. Lucia run capped by a Marlou Aquino slam for 71-64.

Scoreless for almost five minutes, San Miguel's Anton Villoria broke the ice with a drive as the Beermen slowly clawed their way back into contention.

Seigle slowly brought the Beermen within striking distance, 77-79, less than two minutes remaining.

After Raheim Brown made it 80-77 with a free throw, Seigle's back-to-back baskets gave the Beermen an 81-80 edge going into the final 44 seconds.

Chris Burgess fouled out in the ensuing play, while Aquino made the front end of his free throws as the Realtors knotted the count at 81, which stood at the end of regulation play.

Blessed with a dominating import, meanwhile, Shell will only have to think about containing Alaska's deadly triangle offense when the two squads tangle at 4:45 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Shell coach Leo Austria acknowledges that Wesley Wilson automatically gives the Turbochargers an edge on both ends of the floor.

The Coca-Cola Tigers battle the Barangay Ginebra Kings in the other game at 7:35 p.m.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL BEER 97—Seigle 43, Belasco 15, Burgess 14, Racela 12, Hontiveros 5, Peña 4, Viloria 2, Mente 2, Lopez 0.

STA. LUCIA 94—Aquino 25, Mendoza 21, Brown 19, Duremdes 15, Agapito, 4, Tolomia, 4, Espino 2, Omolon 2, Demape 2, Cuan 0, Gonzales 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 37-42, 64-65, 81-81, 90-90, 97-94

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk N Text	2	0
Red Bull	2	1
San Miguel	2	1
Purefoods	2	1
Shell	2	1
Ginebra	1	1
FedEx	1	2
Coca-Cola	1	2
Sta. Lucia	1	2
Alaska	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:45 p.m.—Shell vs Alaska
7:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Brgy. Ginebra

RP FIVE MANAGER: San Miguel Corp. president and COO Ramon S. Ang (third from left) with (from left) SMC sports director Robert Non, PBA commissioner Noli Eala and RP team coach Chot Reyes after accepting his appointment as team manager of the national basketball team. Ang will be represented by Non in the day-to-day operations of the squad.

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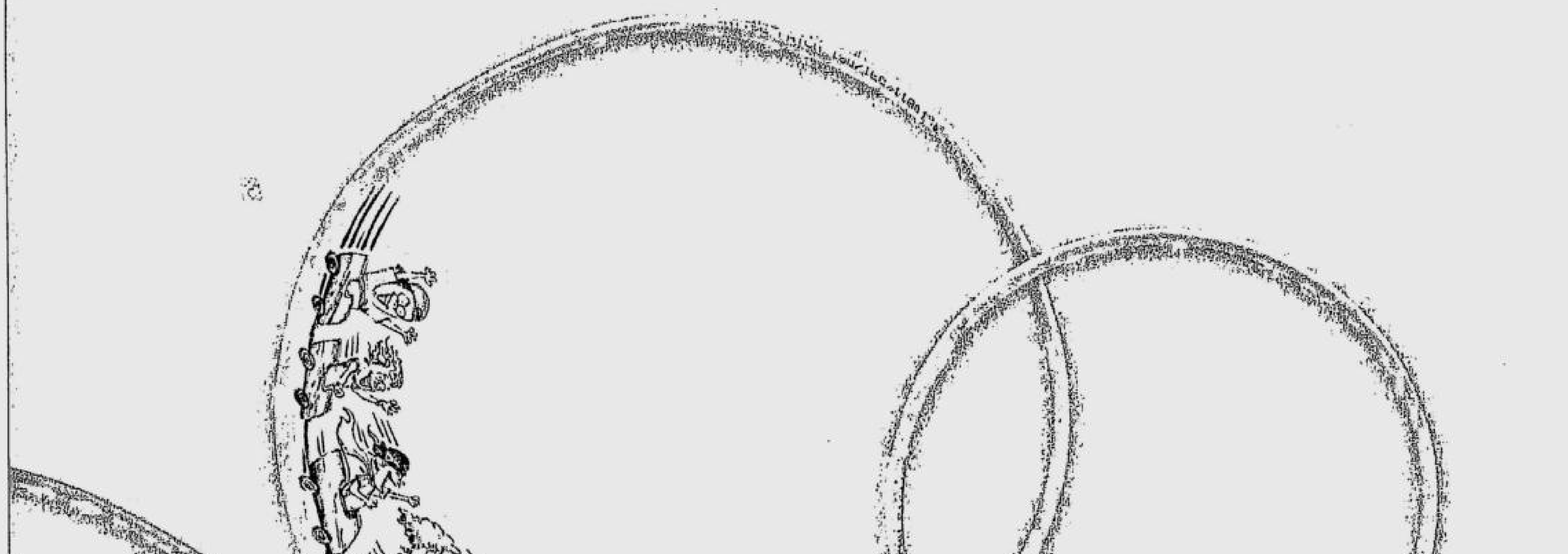

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Injured O'Neal could be out for the season

O'NEAL

INDIANAPOLIS (Sports Network)—Indiana Pacers All-Star forward Jermaine O'Neal will be sidelined indefinitely and could possibly miss the rest of the season as he continues to be plagued by a sprained right shoulder.

O'Neal sustained the injury in a March 3 loss to the Nuggets when he was hit on the right arm by Denver's Francisco Elson while driving to the basket.

He was placed on the injured list the next day and has missed the last five games. O'Neal is eligible to be activated for Wednesday's game against Utah, but head coach Rick Carlisle does not expect his star player to return to the lineup anytime soon.

"He's going to be out for awhile," Carlisle said. "I have no idea when, or if, he will return. His situation continues to be monitored and, as the swelling goes down, we'll be able to make a better determination as to exactly where he is." There has not been any decision made on whether O'Neal will require surgery to repair the shoulder, but if he does need an operation then his season would likely be over.

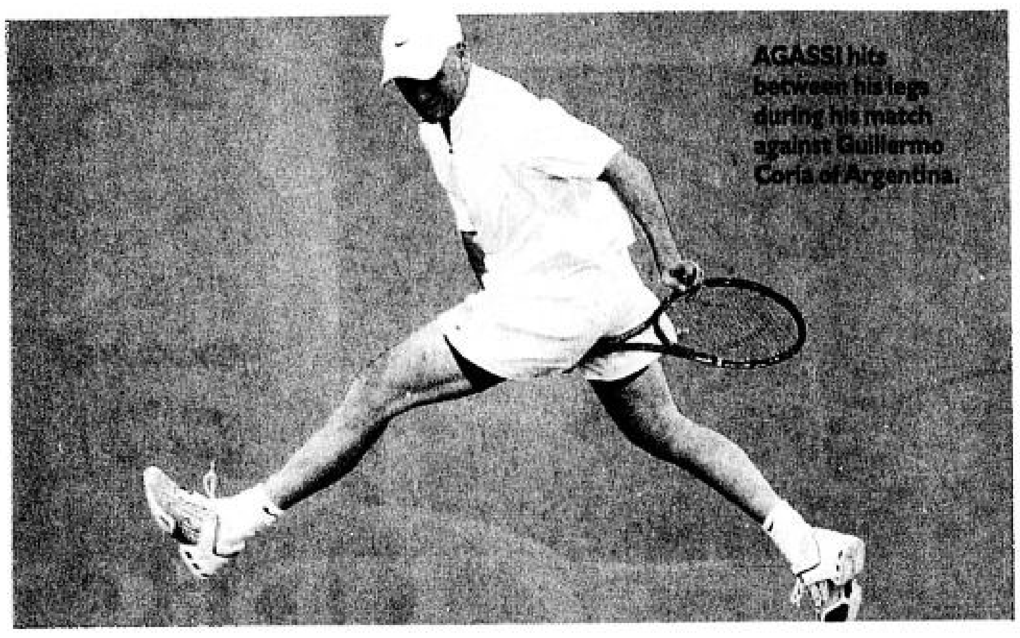
The 26-year-old O'Neal, who made the All-Star Game as a reserve this season, is the Pacers' leading scorer, rebounder and shot-blocker. He is averaging 24.8 points to go along with 9.0 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per outing.

O'Neal has already missed more games this season (21) than in the previous four years combined (20), due mostly to the 15 contests he missed while serving a league suspension for his part in the mid-November brawl at Detroit.

The Pacers are 22-19 with O'Neal in the lineup and 9-12 without him this year.

"We've got to find a way to get to the playoffs, and that's going to be a challenge in itself," Carlisle said. "We've got to go on the idea that he's not going to be here. That's the way we have to approach it. We can't be hanging our hopes on his return because it's going to be awhile if he comes back at all. We've got to do it with the guys we have available."

Reuters



AGASSI hits between his legs during his match against Guillermo Coria of Argentina.

Federer, Agassi march to ATP Masters q'finals

INDIAN WELLS, California—World No. 1 Roger Federer held off a stiff challenge from Ivan Ljubicic to advance to the quarter-finals at the $4.8-million Indian Wells WTA and ATP Masters Series event.

Top seed Federer won 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4) on Wednesday and has not dropped a set so far in the $4.8-million hardcourt tournament.

Federer already has three titles (Doha, Rotterdam, Dubai) in 2005, with wins over Ljubicic in all three finals. He has won six of seven tournaments he has entered since the start of the US Open.

Federer's victory sets up a marquee quarter-final at the California desert event featuring six players seeded in the top ten.

Second seed Lleyton Hewitt, third seed Andy Roddick and No. 6 Tim Henman also won their fourth round matches on Wednesday.

Ljubicic, who had not dropped a set in the event heading into the Federer match, still leads the ATP Tour with 24 wins this year compared to 23 for Federer.

Federer produced 30 winners and 13 unforced errors, while Ljubicic had 24 winners and 16 unforced errors in the one hour, 48 minute center court match.

Federer won 89 percent (41/46) of his first serves and 83 of 149 total points.

Federer stepped it up when it counted the most on the big points in the tiebreakers.

There was just one break point chance in the match in the second game of the second set with Ljubicic serving and down 30-40. Federer missed the return to get to deuce and then Ljubicic closed out the game with an ace to make it 1-1.

Federer will next face Germany's Nicolas Kiefer, who upset 10th seed David Nalbandian 6-1, 6-3.

In the women's draw, fourth seed Elena Dementieva reached the semis of the WTA/ATP Masters Series event with a come-from-behind win over Svetlana Kuznetsova in an all-Russian rematch of the 2004 US Open final.

The 23-year-old Dementieva won 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in her third consecutive three-setter.

"It was a great match. Both of us were playing well, but I played much better than I did at the US Open," said Dementieva of Moscow.

Dementieva, the only woman to reach two Grand Slam singles finals in 2004, is going through a transitional period with her game, seeking to improve on a subpar serve that has been her undoing on big points in the past.

US Open champion Kuznetsova double faulted in the final game to give Dementieva three match points.

Kuznetsova, the fifth seed, staved off those match points to get to deuce then survived a fourth match point before double faulting on the fifth one to hand Dementieva the victory.

Dementieva has beaten Kuznetsova twice in a row after losing to her 6-3, 7-5 in the US Open final.

Dementieva advances to the semis, where she will meet either American Lindsay Davenport or Nathalie Dechy of France.

Kim Clijsters booked her spot in the other semifinal by weathering a one-set blip in beating Spain's Conchita Martinez 6-1, 3-6, 6-2. She will play either Maria Sharapova or Mary Pierce.

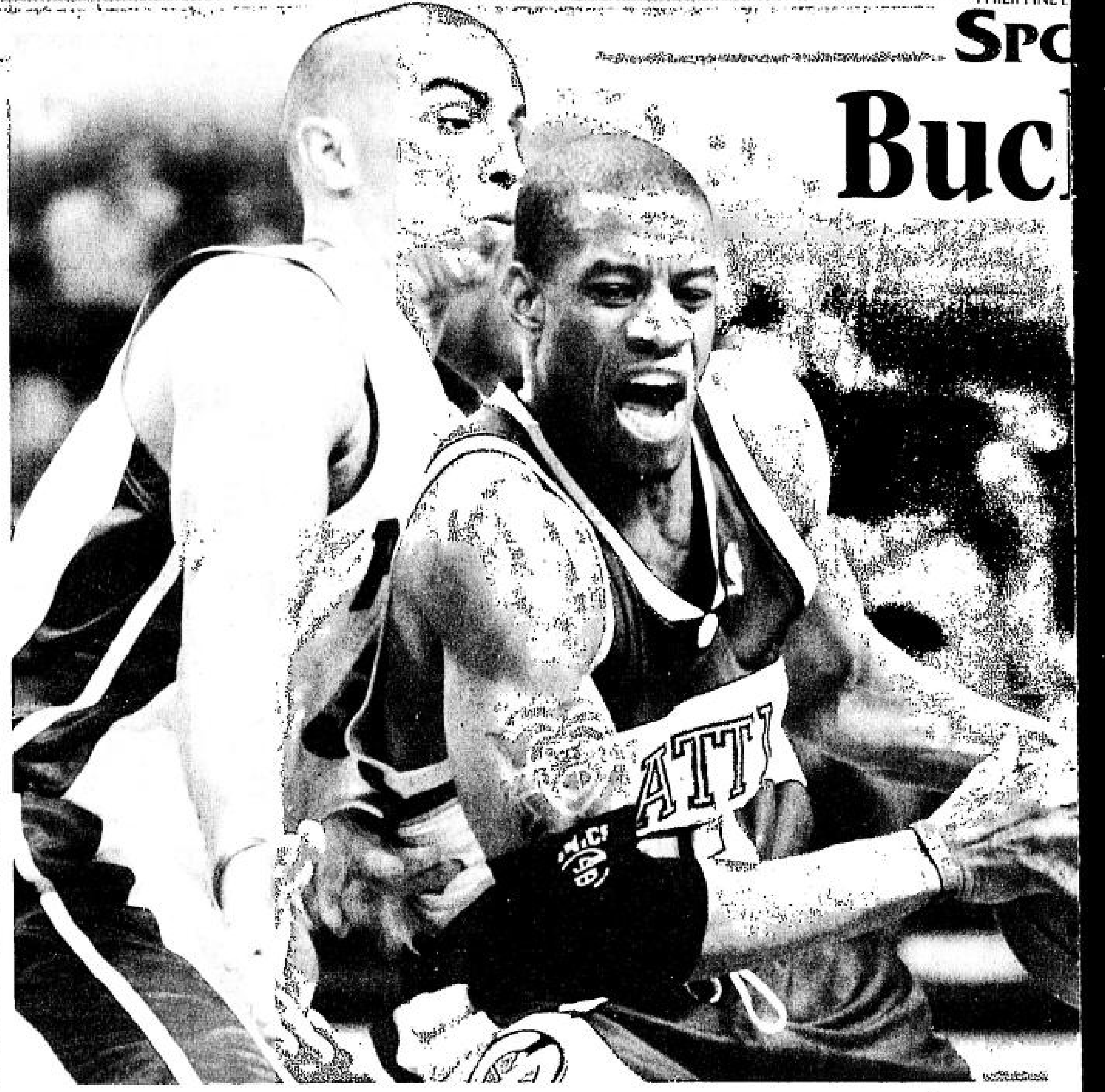
Eight-time major winner Andre Agassi was relentless in beating Guillermo Coria 6-4, 6-1, ousting the Argentinian clay-court specialist for the second consecutive year.

Agassi beat Coria in straight sets in the quarter-finals here last year.

Australian second seed Hewitt pummeled Paul-Henri Mathieu of France, 6-1, 6-0, to remain on track for his third Indian Wells title and former US Open winner Roddick of the United States breezed past Chile's Fernando Gonzalez 6-4, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals.

In another fourth round match, Englishman Henman continued his domination over Spaniard Tommy Robredo with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 win. Henman is now 4-0 against Robredo. *AFP*

Buc



SONICS' Antonio Daniels (right) drives to the basket against Pistons' Carlos Arroyo in the first half Wednesday in Auburn Hi

Shaq, Kobe downplay 2nd me

MIAMI—Here's a surprise: Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant actually agree on something.

Asked at different times, in different ways and in different cities, the former teammates offered exactly the same assessment of Thursday's NBA contest between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Miami Heat—the second time they will meet as opponents this season.

"It's just another game," O'Neal said.

And from Bryant: "It's just another game."

On a simplistic level, they're right. The result of the game in Miami will matter in the standings as much as any other game.

Yet whenever Shaq and Kobe face off, there's sure to be more intrigue than that which surrounds typical regular-season match-ups of teams from differing conferences.

Miami (50-16) has won 10 straight games, should clinch the Southeast Division championship in the next week, and appears locked into the top seed for the

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Aussies make NCAA cage mark

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Ten Australian players will compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball tournament that begins Thursday and leads to a Final Four showdown here next month.

A total of 393 players from outside the United States, an average of more than one for each school, played this season for US colleges, all of them seeking a berth in the tournament, the annual American passion dubbed "March Madness."

Aussie legend Andrew Gaze was the first notable US college star from Down Under, sparking Seton Hall into the 1989 NCAA Finals.

This year, 26 players, twice as many as a decade ago, played for US schools. Only Canada and Lithuania produced more.

Georgia Tech senior 7-foot-1 center Luke Schenscher averages 10.4 points and 7.5 rebounds a game for the Yellow Jackets, finalists last year but only 19-11 this season.

Andrew Bogut, a 7-footer seen as a potential top-10 pick in June's National Basketball Association Draft, will lead the University of Utah, 27-5, against Texas-El Paso, 27-7, on Thursday at Tucson, Arizona.

Aussie Daniel Kickert had 16.6 points and 6.7 rebounds a game to help spark St. Mary's, 25-8, reach a first-round game against Southern Illinois, 26-7.

Alex Loughton averaged 13.9 points and 8.1 rebounds for Old Dominion University, which went 28-5 and opens against favored Michigan State, 22-6, at Worchester, Massachusetts.

Center Chris Cameron contributed 7.8 points a game for Louisiana-Lafayette, 20-10, which opens Friday at Nashville against Louisville, 29-4.

Charlotte, a 21-7 club with Aussie 7-footer Martin Iti coming off the bench for 5.2 points a game, opens Friday against North Carolina State at Worcester. *AFP*

Sharapova turns back Zuluaga

SHARAPOVA: Big battle out there.

INDIAN WELLS, California—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova had to call upon all her reserves to beat Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the fourth round of the Pacific Life Open on Tuesday.

The world number three appeared to be cruising when 5-2 up in the third set, before the scrappy Zuluaga forced Sharapova into numerous errors, forcing her to use five match points to win the nearly two hour contest.

"It was a big battle out there," said Sharapova, who will meet the winner of the Mary Pierce-Nadia Petrova match.

"I basically committed suicide when I had those four match points, especially when I came into the net and stayed in the middle.

"When you're not playing your best tennis, those are the matches where you finish, win or lose.

"But it's good to get through them, because I feel whenever I don't play that well, then the next day I come out and I do better and better." Sharapova said she had briefly flashbacked to her semi-final loss to Serena Williams at the Australian Open, where she squandered three match points.

Two other Russians, Elena Dementieva and Svetlana Kuznetsova, set up a re-match of their 2004 US Open final when Dementieva beat Tatiana Golovin 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, while fifth seed Kuznetsova overcame Rika Fujiwara of Japan 6-3, 6-2.

Former champion Kim Clijsters continued her comeback from a wrist injury with a 6-2, 6-1 thrashing of Russia's Evgenia Linetskaya. Clijsters said she had worked on her forehand and also decided to become more aggressive. *Reuters*

WORLD FIGURE SKATING

Russians retain crown as Chinese pull out

MOSCOW—Russia's Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin retained their pairs title in dramatic fashion at the world figure skating championships on Wednesday after former winners Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao withdrew at the last minute.

Local favorites Totmianina and Marinin skated an inspired free program to the music from Rimski-Korsakov's ballet Sheherazade to win by more than 10 points over fellow Russians Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov.

The Chinese duo, world champions in 2002 and 2003, pulled out of the competition just before their final skate as Zhao was suffering from a foot injury.

In their absence, Dan Zhang and Hao Zhang—China's number two—took the bronze with their compatriots, Qing Pang and Jian Tong, finishing fourth.

There was also a big controversy earlier when Hao collided with Totmianina during Wednesday's morning practice.

"I was standing still with my back to the Chinese guy when suddenly I was thrown 180 degrees in the air and fell to the ice," said Totmianina, who was sidelined for almost three months earlier this season after falling head first during a lift in the Skate America competition.

With the fall last October leaving the Russian unconscious for several minutes, Wednesday's incident left Totmianina shaken.

"I don't know if it (collision) was premeditated, I hope not, but I must say when I hit the ice it was very painful. It was not a pleasant feeling."

Hao said the collision was an accident.

"It was unintentional, just an accident and I already sent my apologies to Tatiana," the 20-year-old said through the interpreter.

Totmianina's coach, Oleg Vasilyev, however, saw things differently.

"I can't say for sure that they did it on purpose but the Chinese pair was very aggressive throughout the practice skate," the 1984 Olympic pairs champion told Reuters.

Meanwhile, Petrova and Tikhonov, world champions in 2000, were delighted with their performance.

"We had some technical mistakes in our free program but overall, I think, it was our best skate ever," said 34-year-old Tikhonov.

Reuters

TATIANA Totmianina and Maxim Marinin perform during the Pairs Free Skating Program of the 2005 World Figure Skating Championships. AFP

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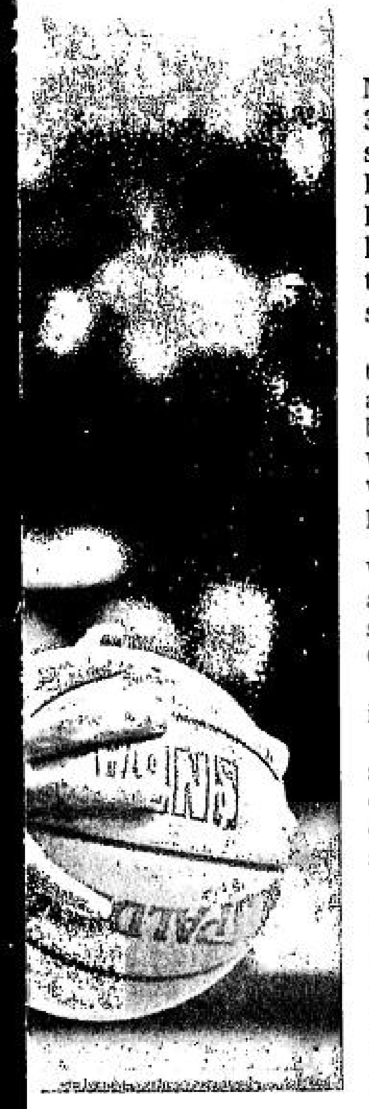
ks trample Cavs; Pistons win



lls, Mich. AP

eting

Eastern Conference playoffs.
Lakers (32-31) have lost seven
last 11 games, are 11-19 on the
nd entered Wednesday a half-
ehind Denver for the final play-
in the Western Conference.
has a great team down there,"
yant, who is averaging 28.2
er game. *AP*

MILWAUKEE—Michael Redd scored 32 points and Joe Smith tied his season high with 21 as the Milwaukee Bucks withstood 34 points from LeBron James and defeated the Cavaliers, 96-88, Wednesday night, extending Cleveland's road losing streak to eight games.

James scored more than 30 points for the third straight game, Drew Gooden added 14, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 13 and 14 rebounds. But it wasn't enough for the Cavaliers, who haven't won on the road since a 105-87 victory at Golden State on Jan. 22. Cleveland plays four of its next six games on the road.

Desmond Mason added 13 points and Mo Williams 12 as the Bucks remained perfect against the Central Division at home with their seventh straight victory. They also snapped the Cavaliers' three-game winning streak.

The loss prevented Cleveland from matching its win total from last season—35 games.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups scored 32 points and Rasheed Wallace had nine of his 24 during a key stretch of the fourth quarter to lift the Detroit Pistons to their 10th straight home win.

Rashard Lewis scored 26 for the SuperSonics, who had won their four previous road games.

The teams took turns with the lead before Rasheed Wallace turned two steals into a dunk and a mid-range jumper, giving the Pistons a 91-90 lead. Richard Hamilton then connected on a 3-pointer, and Tayshaun Prince made two free throws to seal the victory.

Seattle's Ray Allen missed all four of his shots and was held to two points in the first half before finishing with 20 points on 6-of-11 shooting.

In Atlanta, Gilbert Arenas had 29 points and Larry Hughes added 23 as the Washington Wizards had a season-high point total.

The Wizards used a 24-2 run in the fourth quarter to win consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 9, a span of 13 games.

Al Harrington's 18-footer with 10:43 remaining cut the Wizards' lead to 84-78, but the Hawks failed to score a field goal on their next 13 possessions.

Arenas, who was 4-for-6 on 3-point attempts, hit two treys during the 24-2 run.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 30 points and Jason Kidd set the tone as the New Jersey Nets took control early and completed a season sweep of the Chicago Bulls.

Kidd had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists as the Nets posted their seventh straight win over the Bulls. Jason Collins had 14 points and 11 rebounds and Nenad Krstic added 11 points.

The Bulls, who never led, played without leading scorer Eddy Curry (15.6 points per game), who missed the game with a left hamstring strain. They struggled to pick up the slack, with the bench doing most of the scoring as the starters combined for only 37 points.

In Boston, Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker each scored 24 points, and the Boston Celtics nearly blew a 16-point fourth-quarter lead before pulling out their fifth straight win.

The victory was Boston's ninth in 10 games since acquiring Walker from Atlanta on Feb. 24.

Tony Allen finished with 16 points for Boston, including a pair of big baskets in the final 1:46. Ricky Davis had 14.

Jalen Rose led the Raptors with a season-high 35 points and Chris Bosh had 20 before leaving with a bruised lower back early in the final quarter.

In Indianapolis, Stephen Jackson scored 28 points and the Indiana Pacers hit 37 of 43 free throws.

Utah outshot Indiana from the field, but the Pacers spent much of the night at the free throw line. Jackson shot just 6-of-16 from the field but was 4-of-8 from 3-point range and 12-of-12 on free throws.

Reggie Miller scored 15 points and Anthony Johnson 12 for Indiana. Mehmet Okur scored 16 points and Andrei Kirilenko 15 for Utah. *AP*

Complete results:

Boston 110, Toronto 109; Indiana 103, Utah 84; New Jersey 100, Chicago 84; Washington 122, Atlanta 93; Detroit 102, Seattle 95; Milwaukee 96, Cleveland 88; Memphis 88, New Orleans 82; Houston 108, Portland 77; San Antonio 89, Minnesota 73; Denver 120, Charlotte 101; La Clippers 110, Orlando 102.

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FORMER Major League Baseball star Jose Canseco (right) looks on during a live town hall forum on steroid use in baseball with moderator, Marvin Kalb at XM Satellite Radio in Washington. REUTERS

Poll says Americans want to punish doping athletes

WASHINGTON—Polling results released on the eve of a US Congressional hearing into steroids in baseball showed grave concern by the American public and a desire for strong punishment for dope cheat players.

An ABC News-ESPN poll found eight in 10 Americans concerned that steroid use by sports stars encourages youngsters to take steroids. The House Government Reform Committee cited such concerns in booking Thursday's hearing.

Sixty percent of those polled say Major League Baseball has not done enough to stop players from taking steroids, but only 30 percent of those questioned think the federal government should impose rules upon the sport.

A CNN poll asking if baseball players taking steroids should be banished from baseball had 82 percent of those responding saying yes.

The ABC-ESPN poll found more than 60 percent support for having records stricken from baseball's all-time marks and 66 percent say steroids should be enough to render a player ineligible for Baseball Hall of Fame consideration.

Barry Bonds, whose home run efforts have been clouded by questions of steroids, owns the one-season homer mark of 73 set in 2001 and is approaching Hank Aaron's all-time homer mark of 755.

More than 70 percent of those replying to ABC-ESPN said Bonds should have been subpoenaed to the hearing. Bonds was not because of concerns over Bonds' role in the ongoing BALCO steroid criminal case.

Similar concerns prompted the US Justice Department to excuse New York Yankee slugger Jason Giambi from testifying, citing his possible testimony in the BALCO case, where four men are accused of steroid distribution.

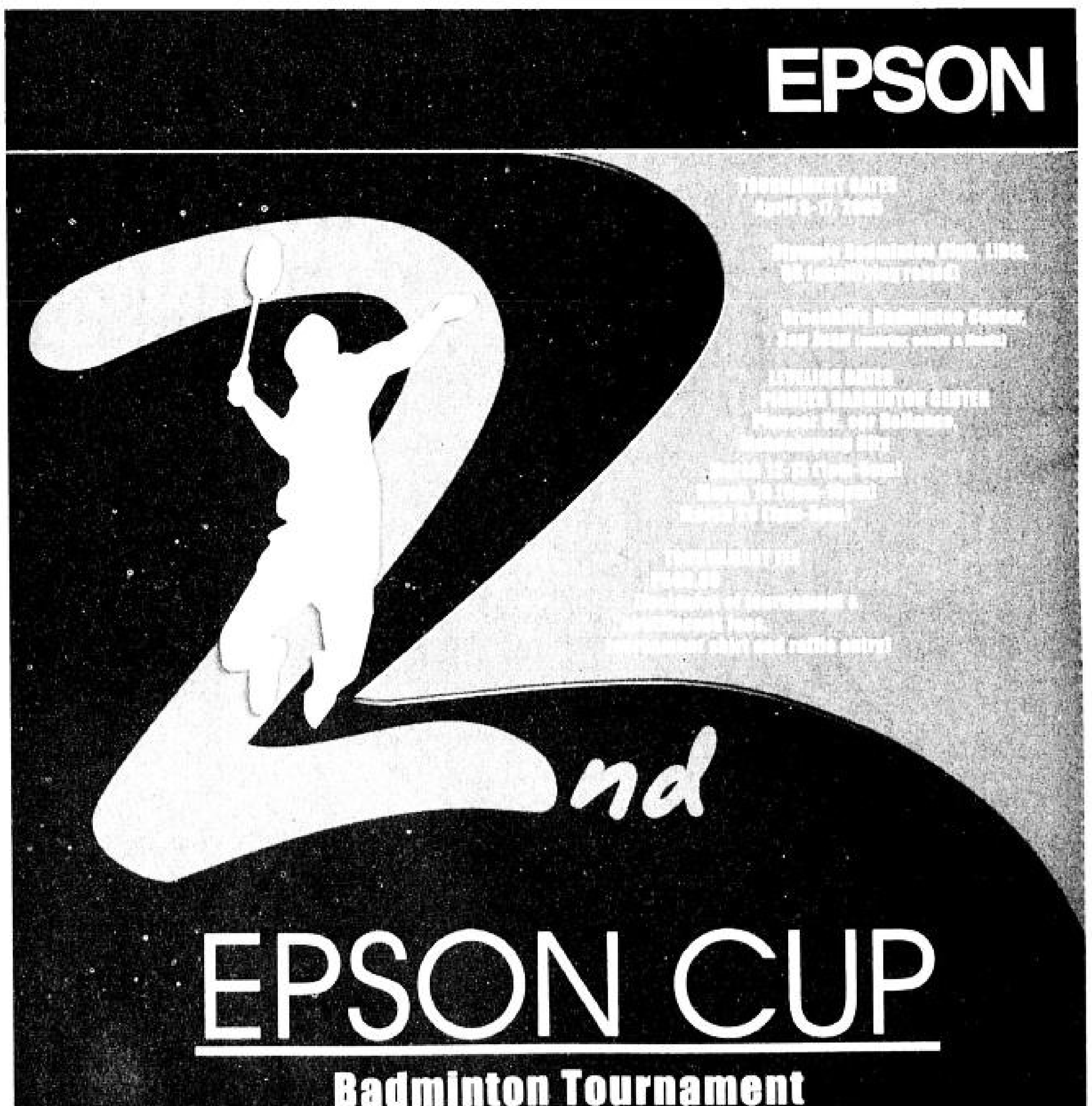
USA Today revealed a survey of 568 players Wednesday that showed 79 percent believed steroids played a role in record-breaking performances by star players and 27 percent said performance-enhancing drugs were a "major contributor" to those records.

"I believe that," echoed Fay Vincent, Major League Baseball's commissioner from 1989 to 1992. "It's hard to believe that anybody could not believe that." About 35 percent of players said if a player is found to have taken steroids, his records should be stricken or marked with an asterisk.

The newspaper survey, conducted between Feb. 17 and March 9, showed 68.8 percent of players thought the new steroid testing plan was as strict as it should be, although lawmakers have criticized it as hopelessly inadequate.

"It doesn't surprise me," committee chair Tom Davis said of the finding. "That's like asking trial lawyers if more tort reform is necessary. That answer is going to be 'No.'"

The survey showed 80 percent of players stated that fewer than half of all major league players take steroids but only 52.9 percent said fewer than half of all players take amphetamines, which are not banned under the new policy. *AFP*



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InqBox

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Question of the Week

Some Abu Sayyaf members detained in Camp Bagong Diwa killed their 3 prison guards, in an attempt to escape. Some civilians and Abu Sayyaf members died as a result. What do you think of the quality of security in our police and military detention areas?

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to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Big Three ready for Bay Hill Inv'l

ORLANDO, Florida—South Africa's Ernie Els arrives at the Bay Hill Invitational this week buoyed by two straight overseas victories and ready to vie with Vijay Singh to topple Tiger Woods from the world number one spot.

Woods, who won this event four years in a row from 2000-03, leads the rankings by a narrow margin, and any of the top three—Woods, No. 2 Singh or No. 3 Els—could emerge from the tournament on top.

Woods regained the world number one ranking from Singh on March 6 with a gripping triumph over Phil Mickelson in the Ford Championship.

Woods had held the top spot for a record 264 straight weeks before losing the honor in September to Singh, who was number one for 26 weeks.

But the American says the ranking is not much of a motivation for him.

"It's not the number one ranking that drives me," Woods said here this week. "It's winning tournaments. The rankings, player of the year and other awards will be taken care of by winning tournaments."

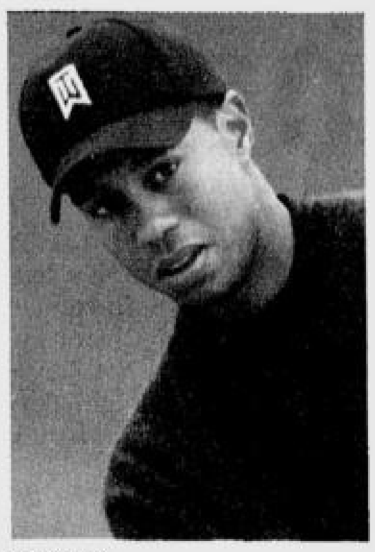
That's just what Els has been doing.

After playing three US Tour events in January and finishing no worse than sixth, Els has now won two in a row overseas—most recently with a come-from-behind victory at the Qatar Masters on Sunday.

Singh comes into Bay Hill having rallied last Sunday to join a playoff at the Honda Classic, only to miss a three-footer for par at the second playoff hole and allow Ireland's Padraig Harrington to claim his first US tour victory.

Other top players entered this week include South African Retief Goosen, Spain's Sergio Garcia and Australian Stuart Appleby.

Chad Campbell, who made up a four-stroke deficit to win here by six shots last year, defends his title. Mickelson is one of the few top players missing the Arnold Palmer-hosted event. *AFP*


WOODS

ELS

SPORTSWATCH

Learn-to-swim program March 28

THE BERT Lozada Swim School will start its summer learn-to-swim program on March 28 at over 30 venues in Luzon and Visayas. The swimming lessons are available in a multi-level program for parent and child program for infants up to its adult fitness. Backed by 50 years of experience, the BLSS is the only swim school in the Philippines affiliated with the United States Swim Schools Association and the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety. Enrollment for BLSS started Tuesday at different schools and venues nationwide. For inquiries, call 563-5532, 589-1982, 805-0237, 803-5998 or visit its website www.bertlozadaswimschool.com.

BEST Center summer basketball

MILO BEST Center's summer basketball program for Metro Manila will reel off on April 5 and 6 in five venues—San Beda College (Alabang and Manila), Ateneo, Notre Dame of Greater Manila and Jose Rizal University. Classes are scheduled on Tuesdays and Fridays at SBC Alabang and Ateneo College covered courts on April 5-20 and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at SBC Manila, Notre Dame and JRU from April 6-30. There will be advanced registration in all venues on March 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. The schedules are: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. for level 1 (all age groups) and level 2 (age 11 below) and 1 to 4 p.m. for level 2 (12 above) and levels 3-4 (9 above) at SBC Alabang; and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. for levels 1-2 (12 above) and levels 4-5-6 (9 above) at Ateneo. Interested parties may also visit or call The BEST Center at 34 Scout Lozano corner Scout Reyes, Barangay Laging Handa, QC, 411-6260 and 372-3065 or Dansei Groom Shop/Sensei Salon on the fifth floor, Manila Pavilion Hotel, UN Avenue, 525-8191.

Quezon City Blue and Red part ways

QUEZON City Blue and Quezon City Red contest the group lead when play resumes tomorrow in the First Globabl Destiny Basketball League eliminations all over the metropolis. The QC Blue cagers, on top with a 3-0 win-loss record, tangle with the QC Red basketeers, sporting a 2-0 mark, at 1 p.m. at the Amoranto Sports Complex in the grassroots competition backed by Solid Video Corp., Sony Philippines, MyDestiny Cable Internet. Quezon City Yellow (2-1) and Quezon City Black (1-1) meet at 2:30 p.m. in a doubleheader that will be covered by the organizing network, according to tournament commissioner Jet Gaerlan, also Global Destiny's vice president for special events and promotions. The event is also supported by Avid Sales Corp., Regent Food and Molten. Valenzuela Light Blue guns for its fourth straight win at 1 p.m. against Valenzuela Red (3-0) at the Valenzuela Sports Complex. At the Marikina Sports Complex, Marikina Brown and Marikina Black, both with 3-0 cards, part ways at 2:30 p.m. while Marikina Gray (3-0) takes on Marikina Green (1-2) at 4 p.m. San Juan Yellow goes up against San Juan Orange at 2:30 p.m. at the Barangay Sta. Lucia court in San Juan.

Hobie Cup unreels at Taal Lake

TAAL Lake again bursts into colors as the first Diagon Cup unreels on March 19 at the Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas. More than a dozen teams of multi-colored Hobie 16 catamarans will compete for honors and handsome trophies from Diagon Awards, the leading supplier of Italian-designed trophies and awards for sporting and corporate events. According to Diagon Awards president Sergio Giorgetti, the firm is supporting hobie sailing because it is a wholesome and eco-friendly sport which families can enjoy. Favored to romp with the awards are Charlie Clement and Noki (Team Maldita), Mark Haswell and Andrea Levinge (Team Bilis Biik), Raul and Ichay Bulaong (Team Anilao), Jun Villanueva and Nestor Soriano (Team Palm One), and Monchu Garcia and Cons Castaneda (Team e2door.com). For information, log on to ww.tlyc.com.

Chess body now POC full member

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is set to grant full membership – with voting rights – to the National Chess Federation of the Philippines when it convenes in a general assembly on March 30. This was after the POC board unanimously approved the full membership of the chess association by virtue of the sport's inclusion in the 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and the 2005 Philippine SEA Games this November. International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde pushed for the chess full membership during their meeting early this week in Makati. It was seconded by POC president Peping Cojuangco and POC chair Robert Aventajado. NCFP president Go Teng Kok said he was humbled by the show of support by the ``country's top three sports leaders.'' The concurrent athletics chief added that he is taking the vote of confidence as a challenge to retain the overall championship in the event slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5. The Filipino woodpushers won four gold medals in Vietnam. The POC rules that for a national sport association to get elevated to full membership, it has to be played in at least two international competitions like the SEA Games. Though chess' inclusion to the Philippine SEAG has yet to be concluded, the POC board made the consideration, citing the precedent set by triathlon which gained the right after it has been played in the 2003 SEAG and was calendared for the Athens Olympics. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

5-cock derby gets underway today

A STELLAR cast of big-time cockers will compete tonight when the much-awaited 5-cock derby finally gets underway at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. More than 60 fights are scheduled with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten as sponsors. Hosts of this one-day cockfest are Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo of Laguna, who won the NCA Cocker of the Year plum at the Araneta Coliseum last year. Among those invited are sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Bebot ROxas of Tarlac, Melchor Caluag, Boots Yap and engineer Efren Canlas of Pampanga, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jet Fernando, Jingco Brothers, Lito Orillaza, Ramon Mancenares, Mayor Ashley Arayata and Pepito Ngo and Gerry Ramos, who are fresh from winning the GCAP derby last Wednesday. Meanwhile, pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that there will be no derby on March 25. Action resumes on April 1 via the NCA Group 5-cock derby. For details, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

Globe lines now open on SEA Games lockout

ROGER Federer of Switzerland acknowledges the crowd after defeating Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), at the Pacific Life Open on Wednesday. Related story on A28 AP

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FINALLY, Globe Telecoms is answering calls.

A Philippine Olympic Committee insider yesterday said Globe is making a favorable response to appeals from the POC to waive the lockout privilege on sponsorship it had over arch rival Smart Communications for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

The source said the POC has already obtained an assurance from Globe to allow its board of directors to consider the enforcement of a lockout that prohibits Smart from getting into the SEAG picture.

"That is a positive sign and we are hopeful that an arrangement can be reached so that both corporations can extend a helping hand to the Southeast Asian Games hosting," said the source who is a trusted ally of POC president Peping Cojuangco.

Cojuangco is the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee vice chair and chief of the ways and mean committee.

Globe has agreed to a Golden Package worth P100 million which carries with it a lockout deal. It was forged a day after Smart was reported to have offered P300 million. Neither of the cell phone giants has formally signed a contract with the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee, however.

Earlier, Cojuangco had vowed to convince top officials of both Globe and Smart to join hands in sponsoring the SEA Games and boost Philsoc's effort to raise between P800 and P1 billion needed to host the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 meet.

President Macapagal-Arroyo released P300 million to the SEAG fund last week with Cojuangco also announcing that sponsorship deals worth P345 million had been raised from private corporations.

Malco seeks IBF Pan Pacific title in Bangkok today

PEDRO "Mayorga" Malco goes for the IBF Pan Pacific featherweight crown today against Bobby Pacquiao conqueror Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym in a 12-round showdown at the Thonburi College in Bangkok.

The 27-year-old Malco, a native of Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, is confident going into this biggest fight of his career due to his longer preparation.

Assisting Malco in his corner today are ALA Gym trainer Dan Nietes and former manager Perry McNeely, who used to manage him under the JMP Boxing Club.

Malco, now based in Cebu and fighting under the SGG Stable of Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani, has had more than 100 rounds of sparring and is aiming at nothing less than a knockout.

"I will spend all my energies and talent into this fight. God knows how much I prepared for this. I am going for a knockout," said Malco in an earlier interview.

Malco had sparred against WBO Asia Pacific bantam champ Rey Bautista, RP No. 4 bantam Reman Salim among other fighters at the ALA Gym.

Boxing pundits in Cebu have given Malco a better than average chance of upsetting Rakkiatgym. Malco was originally booked to challenge Philippine bantam champ Joel Bauya before the IBF offer came.

Rakkiatgym (47-3, 30 KOs), who was knocked out by Manny Pacquiao in the opening round of their 2002 IBF fight in Davao City, redeemed himself with a ninth-round knockout win over Bobby Pacquiao last Feb. 18 in Pattaya.

However, observers think Malco has a bigger chance against Rakkiatgym, owing to his devil-may-care, forward fighting style, which is a must in a foreign territory like Thailand. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Galaxy Wars 2. Smarty Jude 3. Road Runner
Race 2--1. Easy Rider 2. Bridegroom 3. Sweet Talk 4. Uncle Buck
Race 3--1. Pay to See 2. Full of Fury 3. Vivere 4. Carnegie Hall
Race 4--1. Ocean Wings 2. Beatitudes 3. Classy Babe 4. No Compromise
Race 5--1. Guad 2. Windlass 3. Hidden Pleasure 4. Pride of Masbate
Racè 6--1. Naughty 2. Vallente 3. Red Bells 4. Silver Place 5. Millennium Man
Race 7--1. Royal Rose 2. Gabriela 3. My Aday 4. She Jinsky
Race 8--1. Queen of D Jungle 2. Trader's Choice 3. Mini Skirt 4. Chances Are
Race 9--1. Ravishing Raffy 2. Tenacity 3. Words of Joy 4. Ichiro 5. Extreme Magic 6. Fly Aday Fly

TORONTO Raptors Chris Bosh grimaces after taking a fall in fourth quarter NBA action against the Boston Celtics in Boston. Related story on A29 REUTERS

New quarters for RP athletes at Philsports

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE FILIPINO athlete finally has a new home.

At least 30 rooms with air-conditioning units and new beds are being prepared inside an unused area in the Philsports in Pasig that will accommodate some 300 athletes living in the cramped Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Philippine Sports Commission officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez yesterday announced that the athletes will transfer to their new quarters within two months following instructions by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ramirez said the national athletes' new home will also have a first-class cafeteria being built to the tune of P1 million and that will serve food specified by the agency's nutritionists and dieticians.

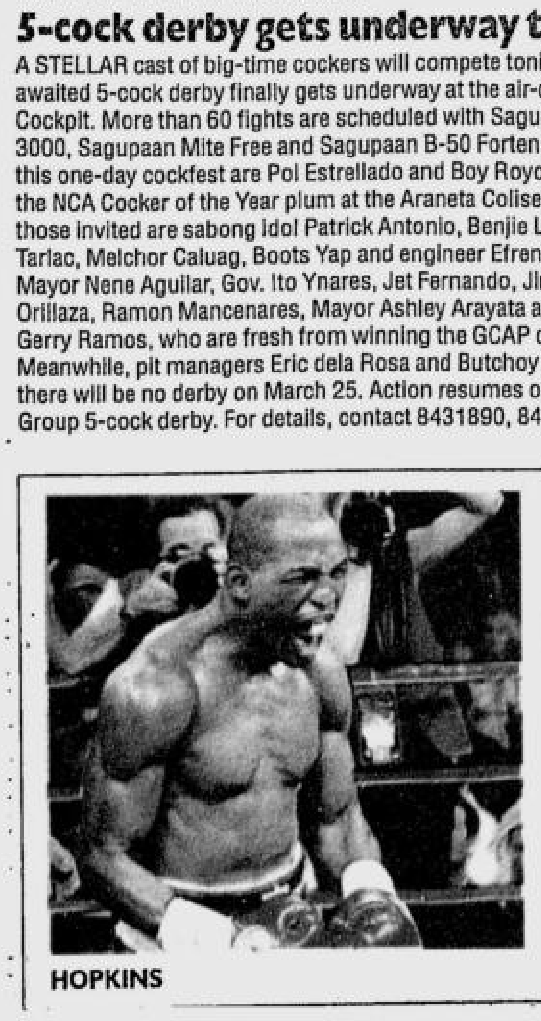
"Finally, our athletes can move out of the 70-year-old Rizal Memorial which was not really intended to house the athletes," said Ramirez, who had earlier restored the monthly allowance of members of the national pool or the Class C athletes.

Ramirez had also raised the meal allowance of the 800-plus athletes from P250 to P350 a day.

"This is in line with the President's foremost instruction which is to 'love the athletes' because if they feel they are special they love you back and deliver," said Ramirez.

The PSC chief said the new athletes' quarters, which will be called the "Olympic Village of RP Athletes," used to be vacant office spaces near Brent School inside the PSC-controlled Philsports, now manned by PSC consultant Willy Roldan.

Some 300 members of the national pool now billeted in the dugout of the Rizal Stadium and its peripheral structures will relocate to the Philsports where there is less traffic congestion and pollution compared with the RMSC.


HOPKINS

Hopkins: Taylor needs to accept fight offer

LAS VEGAS—Bernard Hopkins says he'll make other plans if Jermain Taylor doesn't quickly accept a $1.5 million (euro1.12 million) offer to fight him for the undisputed middleweight title on July 16.

Hopkins said on Wednesday that the purse being offered by his promoter, Golden Boy Promotions, is fair enough if Taylor is serious about trying to win the middleweight title.

"Jermain Taylor has his opportunity, and his opportunity in the next 24 hours is probably over," Hopkins told The Associated Press. "We're not begging these guys to fight."

Taylor's promoter, Lou DiBella, said Hopkins should begin looking for other opponents if he thinks Taylor will fight for what he said was the first offer placed on the table.

Taylor staked his claim as the top contender when he appeared last month on the undercard of the fight between Hopkins and Howard Eastman in Los Angeles. The member of the 2000 US Olympic team stopped Daniel Edouard in the third round to remain undefeated in 23 fights and move himself in position to challenge Hopkins.

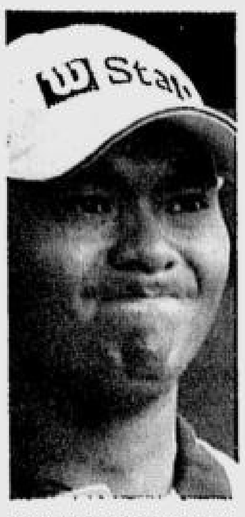
Hopkins, though, said that Taylor wants too much money considering he has never fought for the title, and will be fighting a champion who has defended the title 20 times.

Hopkins declined to say how much he would make in the fight.

Hopkins made $10 million (euro7.48 million) to fight Oscar De La Hoya last year, but has never been a proven ticket seller. About 12,000 people attended his fight last month at Staples Center, but many of those got in on discounted tickets.

Hopkins said if Taylor doesn't agree to his price he could fight Felix Sturm, the German who nearly beat Oscar De La Hoya last year. Hopkins said he went public with the offer to Taylor because he doesn't want to be portrayed as the bad guy in the negotiations. *AP*

Delariarte, 2 others share TCC lead



DELARIARTE PDI PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, Laguna—Jherome Delariarte, Cookie La'O and veteran Benjie Magada shot two-under 68s under ideal playing conditions yesterday to share a one-stroke lead after 18 holes of the rich The Country Club Invitational.

The winds were mostly absent leaving the slippery greens as the last line of defense of the exclusive layout which yielded six sub-par scores and four level cards in what could go down as the tournament's lowest first-round scoring ever.

Cassius Casas and Gerald Rosales, former winners of the Philippine Open, and amateur Tonlits Asistio were one stroke behind after 69s for joint fourth, while Elmer Salvador, Rey Pagunsan, Peter Miñoza and Danny Zarate were tied for seventh with 70s.

Difficult pin placements and the speed of the greens befuddled some of the grizzled names in the field, including defending champion Antonio Lascuña, who opened up with a 73 and found himself five back and tied for 17th spot.

Carito Villaroman, who has never made the cut in the previous two years of the P5-million event, hit all but one green and could have made a run at the lead.

But the former amateur hotshot had 38 putts in all, including three three-putts in a 72 that left him in a three-way tie for 14th with Rodrigo Cuello and Marlon Dizon.

Villaroman eagled the par-5 14th from 15 feet for his lone shining moment in a round marred by four bogeys.

"If you don't hit your approach shots real close, unless it's truly makeable, birdie is hard to come by," said Magada, who had five birdies against three bogeys in a 34-34 card, in Filipino.

The 39-year-old Magada, who finished tied for second with Lascuña here in 2003 and sixth last year, was at one-over until he strung up three straight birdies from the 12th.

He missed the green for his third bogey on the 15th before gunning down another bird with a 9-iron that landed within eight feet of the hole on the 161-yard par-3 17th.

La'O was also tied for the lead after the first round last year when he and amateur Artemio Murakami shot 70s. This time, La'O signed for a 35-33 with birdies on the 13th and 17th.

Pro-bound Juvic Pagunsan also rued the greens, going birdie-less in a 77 marked by five bogeys and one double bogey. He was tied for 30th place together with Rey Alit, Ramon Brobio and three others.

Casas, who submitted a 34-35 card, stuck iron shots close with the longest of his four birdies coming from 10 feet.

Rosales, on the other hand, salvaged his 69 by closing out with three straight birdies highlighted by a curling 25-footer on the 16th.

Only the top 21 scores and ties will advance past the second round today, with a cool P1.1 million going to the champion after 72 holes.

Despite the benign conditions, eight players still failed to break 80 and they will need spectacular rounds today to make it to the weekend.

The top 20 scores:

68—B. Magada, C. La'O, J. Delariarte; 69—G. Rosales, C. Casas, T. Asistio (a); 70—E. Salvador, R. Pagunsan, D. Zarate, P. Miñoza; 71—R. Cabajar, M. Bibat (a), M. Pucay; 72—C. Villaroman, Rodrigo Cuello, M. Dizon; 73—A. Fernando, R. Pactolerin, A. Lascuña; 74—A. Murakami (a), J. Bayron (a), T. Arcillas, P. Bisera.

Miñoza fires 66, trails by two strokes

FRANKIE Miñoza cards an eagle and six birdies to keep in touch with the leaders. PDI PHOTO

SANYA, Hainan, China—Frankie Miñoza came up with one of his strongest starts in years, shooting a six-under-par 66 Thursday to trail the leaders by two strokes after the first round of the $1-million TCL Classic at the Yalong Bay Golf Club here.

Still considered the top Filipino shotmaker, Miñoza had nines of 31-35, gunning down an eagle and six birdies against two bogeys to finish among the leaders of the lucrative event co-sanctioned by the Asian PGA Tour and the European Tour.

Reigning Vietnam Masters champion Angelo Que, the other Filipino in the elite field, also broke par with a 70 (33-37) and stood a good chance of surviving the second-round cut.

Four players, led by Ryder Cupper Paul Casey of England, showed the way with 64s followed by eight golfers at seven under.

Nine others matched the 66 of Miñoza, including Thomas Bjorn of Denmark and Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain.

Sharing the lead with Casey were Thailand's Chawalit Plaphol and Sweden's Johan Edfors and Frederik Andersonhed.

Miñoza, who is trying to work himself back into the rich Japan Tour after losing his exemption due to lackluster play last year, birdied six holes on the front nine against a lone bogey on the fifth.

His five-under 31 was one of the lowest scores on the first nine holes.

After a bogey on No. 10, Miñoza responded with an eagle on the par-5 13th.

Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, also a Ryder Cup veteran and a top favorite here, headed a big group at 67.

The TCL Classic was last staged in 2002 as a full Asian event when Montgomerie won the title at Harbour Plaza Golf Club in Dongguan.

Montgomerie, a seven-time European number one, will be chasing for a good finish at Yalong Bay to secure his place in the Masters at Augusta National next month.

Southwoods ladies pace Fil-Am golf

MANILA Southwoods teams submitted the best scores yesterday to lead their respective divisions in the second Ladies Fil Am Golf Tournament at the par 69 Camp John Hay fairways.

Anya Tanpingco scored 53 points to banner Manila Southwoods' first-round total of 197 points that kicked off its title-retention bid in the Fil Sunflower Division.

Also scoring for Manila Southwoods were Carmelette Villaroman (50), Tracy Locsin (49) while Lora Roberto contributed 45.

Reigning Philippine Ladies Open titlist Jayvie Agojo fired 54 points to lift Sta. Elena to second spot with 179 while Orchard was in third with 170.

In the Am Sunflower Division, the Manila Southwoods quartet assembled 145 points courtesy of Claudine Garcia (42), Heidi Schettkat (39), Claire Ong (33) and Arlette Dizon (30).

Sta. Elena had 117 for second while Valley Golf and Country Club held third with 117.

The other top teams are Fil Division—Chrysanthemum Category—host Camp John Hay 170, Riviera GC 144; Magnolia category—host Baguio Country Club (BCC) 119, Golf Divas 99.

In the Am Division, host Camp John Hay led the Chrysanthemum group with 139, Riviera GC had 127 while Warbird was in third spot with 123.

Ernest Maude International Ltd. paced the Magnolia category with 97 while host BCC had 81.

Today's second round was played at the short but tricky par 61 BCC course.

Basketball body sanctions NBC championship

STARTING this year, the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship will be played under the aegis of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

After meeting with BAP secretary general Graham Lim, NC secgen Tito Palma announced that NBC's second season, which unwraps on April 15 in Baguio and Cagayan de Oro cities, will use BAP-affiliated referees, who will be supervised by technical committee head Arlene Rodriguez and referee supervisor Ernie de Leon.

No less than 10 teams, led by defending champion Tribu Sugbu, will see action.

"Just like the other leagues, we are here to develop basketball in the countryside," said NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla. "We believe there are still many talents who need to be exposed in a tournament like ours."

To achieve its goal. NBC has decided to require every competing team to enlist the services of seven local players.

NBC has also scheduled basketball and referees' clinic in the provinces. After the national championship, it plans to hold an international invitational tournament.

According to Palma, the BAP supports NBC's plans.

Princess Caroline on toxic waste issue

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THROUGH the years, I have been writing about the need to replace the outmoded Rizal Memorial Sports Complex with another sports stadium outside Manila. In my past articles, I have also repeatedly ruled out Clark Field in Pampanga as a probable site because of the reported presence of toxic waste in that former American military base.

Building a new stadium to replace the ancient RMSC is also a top priority of Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco, saying, "We can't get anywhere in our quest for an Olympic gold without a modern international-standard stadium." However, the POC chief likewise expressed his concern with the Clark toxic waste issue, saying that if Clark is ruled out, he would look for another possible site.

Cojuangco's statement has elicited a favorable reaction from Myrla Baldonado, executive director of People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup and ABC (Alliance of the Bases Cleanup) International. Just recently, she cited our efforts to help in their crusade to clean up the toxic waste in Clark Field, saying our articles paved the way for Mr. Cojuangco to recognize the contamination problem in Clark. "That the sports complex will be built somewhere is a product of your effort."

Ms Baldonado also sent us a copy of the message of Princess Caroline of Hanover which she delivered before residents of Clark Field and Subic Bay during her visit to the country last year. Because her remarks carried much weight and should be shared by all, I am reprinting her thoughts about the toxic waste issue. Said the Princess:

"I am very happy to be with all of you today. It is not just that your country is truly beautiful, or that your reputation for having a hospitable people is well-justified. It is also that I have, by being here, fulfilled a promise that I made to pay a visit to a very important person who is, regretfully, no longer here with us in this world. That person is a 6-year-old Filipino child, Jaster Bernal, who died early this year due to non-hereditary leukemia, a disease that is suspected to be connected with the toxic waste contamination of the former American military bases in Clark Air Base, Angeles, Pampanga and Subic Naval Base, Olongapo City where he resided.

"Toxic waste contamination is a problem that needs to be squarely addressed and remedied because many of its victims are those without the capacity or ability to defend themselves against its devastating effects. Most pitiable and in need of help are the children whose lives are, from the beginning, severely compromised. Justice must be done for these children.

"I have, as president of Amade (World Association of Children's Friends), personally asked the American President, George Bush, for his 'intervention to expedite the necessary countermeasures to redress this critical and life-threatening situation and to provide much needed humanitarian aid and compensation to the victims and their families. I was informed, however, by his subordinates that the Philippine government had agreed that the bases would be left in their existing conditions at the time of departure of the American military, without any other legal obligations.

"It appears to me that the issue of concern is not legal, but moral. To redress the pitiful conditions that our children find themselves in, for reasons that are not of their own making, is a matter that can always—and should be—defended, if not as a matter of legal obligation then as the right and moral thing to do.

"The said reality is that there appears to have no proper sanitary strategy taken by the military forces that once occupied these bases to ensure ecological balance. And more than disrupting this nation's environment, such contamination has crippled your children. No child's life should be needlessly riddled with pain and disabilities. No parent deserves to experience the unnatural experience of outliving their children. And no government should be allowed to ignore this situation by mere expedient of invoking legal, but not necessarily moral, justifications."

***

DANCE ATHLETES HONE FOR SEAG. Preparations for this year's SEA Games heat up during the Dance Sports Council of the Philippines' First Quarter Ranking and Competition tomorrow at the Philsports Arena.

DSCP president Becky Garcia said dance athletes all over the country, including members of the national team to the SEA Games, are seeing action in the blue-ribbon affair supported by Petron Corp., BMW Philippines, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, PCSO, Manila Times, Water Zone, Savannah Moon, Joey 92.3 Rhythm and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. "It's all systems go," said Garcia.

GUIDICELLI (1) tries to hold his ground against Stockinger (33) in the Formula Rotax Seniors class. Stockinger made a brilliant passing maneuver in the final straight to win.

Stockinger upsets top F-Rotax Senior rivals

MARLON Stockinger of Birel-Fila provided the unexpected twist when he ruled the Formula Rotax Seniors class recently in the kickoff race of the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The young Stockinger, who clocked the fastest lap time of 44.363 seconds in the final race, zipped past Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli of Cebu Racing Group and last year's Veterans class champion Marcel Thenu to win in 16 minutes 33.863 seconds.

Guidicelli checked in just 0.520 seconds behind Stockinger with Thenu salvaging third place just 0.628 seconds off the winner. Marty Aguilar of Bosch-Intelco was fourth.

Thenu bagged the crown in the Formula Max Masters to open a big gap over Tim Gosnel and Ricardo Loi in the 22-man field.

Rookie Jean Marcelo made an impressive debut over runner-up Raymond Bustamante and third placer Santiago Garcia in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Philippine Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Aviva Insurance.

Defending champion Ayrton Cuesta lived up to his billing as he ruled the Cadet 60 Expert class over John Alvarez of Cebu Racing Group and third placer Kahlil Demaisip.

Roman Academia and Tomas Cabili wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

Bobby Domingo, on the other hand, topped the Novice division over Paolo Gonzales and Victoria Madrigal, younger sister of racing whiz kid Alessandra Madrigal.

The second leg of the seven-round series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines will be staged at the Boomland Kart Track of the CCP complex on April 2 and 3.

INQBOX!
Win this *Inquirer mug
Question of the Week
What do you think should be done to the vendors in Bohol who sold the cassava snacks that resulted in the deaths and poisoning of young school kids?
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! Ü
Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

TM 9-Ball Champion's League begins April 11

THE SEARCH for a new breed of billiards champions starts on April 11 with the holding of the TM 9-Ball Champion's League at the SM Supermall in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Eight teams, composed of rising cue artists, have joined the first-of-its-kind 9-ball billiards tournament scouring the countryside for top talents and organized by Jemah Sports and RocketMan Enterprises of Mon Tuason.

Touch Mobile, a believer in the Filipino athletes' talent, launched the event in an effort to find the successors to Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

Backed by Accel, the tournament will be aired over IBC 13 from 8-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Parañaque Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana and Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza will act as team managers of their respective squads.

Pampanga, Pangasinan, Makati, Pasig and Batangas are the other teams that have confirmed participation in the event.

Games will be held in Dasmariñas and Carmona in Cavite, Parañaque and Manila.

Tuason's experience in implementing regional sports will be put to test anew as he will manage the 30 competitions prior to the tournament proper.

The side tournaments will serve as venue for recruitment of players for the various teams.

Tuason can be reached at 0926-8089999 for inquiries this weekend.

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• leak-proof lid
• drinks stay cool
NOW P8995 Before: P9999.75
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• authentic open flame dip-trough grilling
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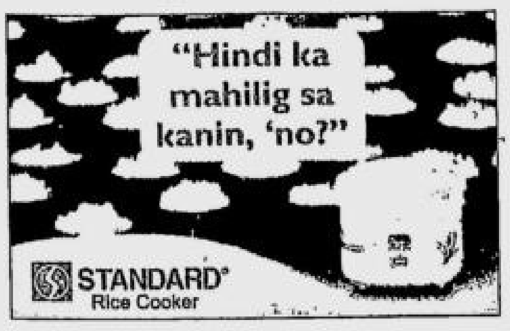
"Hindi ka mahilig sa kanin, 'no?"
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Rice Cooker

FRIDAY,
MARCH 18, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A2-1

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Walang uling.
Walang hirap.
Puro sarap!
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Vertical Rotisserie

DENNIS TRILLO and Vilma Santos, actual winners

PIOLO PASCUAL, rumored winner

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Past presidents of the Philippine Movie Press Club are concerned about rumors of vote-buying in the annual awards

Trouble in the Stars

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC) President Ernie Pecho is convinced that the media group's incumbent head, Joe Barrameda, was "not aware" of the alleged vote-buying during the recent 21st Star Awards ceremony.

The very first Star Awards for movies were given out during Pecho's term.

"I know Joebar (Barrameda's nickname). He's a good person," Pecho told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Wednesday. "Had he known, I'm sure he would have done something about it. He's not like some of our colleagues *na matindi ang pangangailangan* (who are desperate). He would never accept money and ruin his image."

Quoting reports in the tabloids, Pecho said 13 PMPC members, all part of the 24-man voting committee, received P5,000 each from "a woman from ABS-CBN." This was to ensure that the Best Actor award would go to Piolo Pascual (for "Milan") and the Best Actress award to Kris Aquino (for "Feng Shui").

Possible

"They claimed Joebar was behind the 'switching' of the awards," said Pecho.

The payoff might have happened, in fact, he said, but he reiterated his confidence in Barrameda.

Star Cinema, movie arm of ABS-CBN, produced both "Milan" and "Feng Shui."

"One story even said writer Allan Diones has admitted receiving money from the woman," Pecho noted.

Rumors that Kris and Piolo would win the top acting awards had started circulating days before the awards rites last Saturday. Several people who turned up for the program at the Cinema 5 of the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City and spotted the two nominees commented: "They probably know that they would win. Why else would they be here?"

Statement

But it was Vilma Santos who took the Best Actress trophy for "Mano Po 3: My Love," and Dennis Trillo was named Best Actor and Best New Movie Actor for "Aishite Imasu 1941."

INQUIRER Entertainment called Barrameda also on Wednesday, but he would not pick up. Instead, he sent this text message: "The PMPC will issue an official statement hopefully tomorrow."

Several write-ups identified the "woman" as Star Magic PR head Rikka Dylim, who denied the accusation.

In a statement sent to INQUIRER, Dylim said she had "nothing to do with the alleged vote-buying for [ABS-CBN Star Magic] contract artist Mr. Piolo Pascual."

Dylim added: "The network accepts the fact that another actor won the Best Actor award. We never question or protest the decision of the club."

Pecho said there could be several reasons that Kris and Piolo did not win, "despite all the efforts exerted by ABS-CBN."

"Some members could have

TROUBLE/ A2-3

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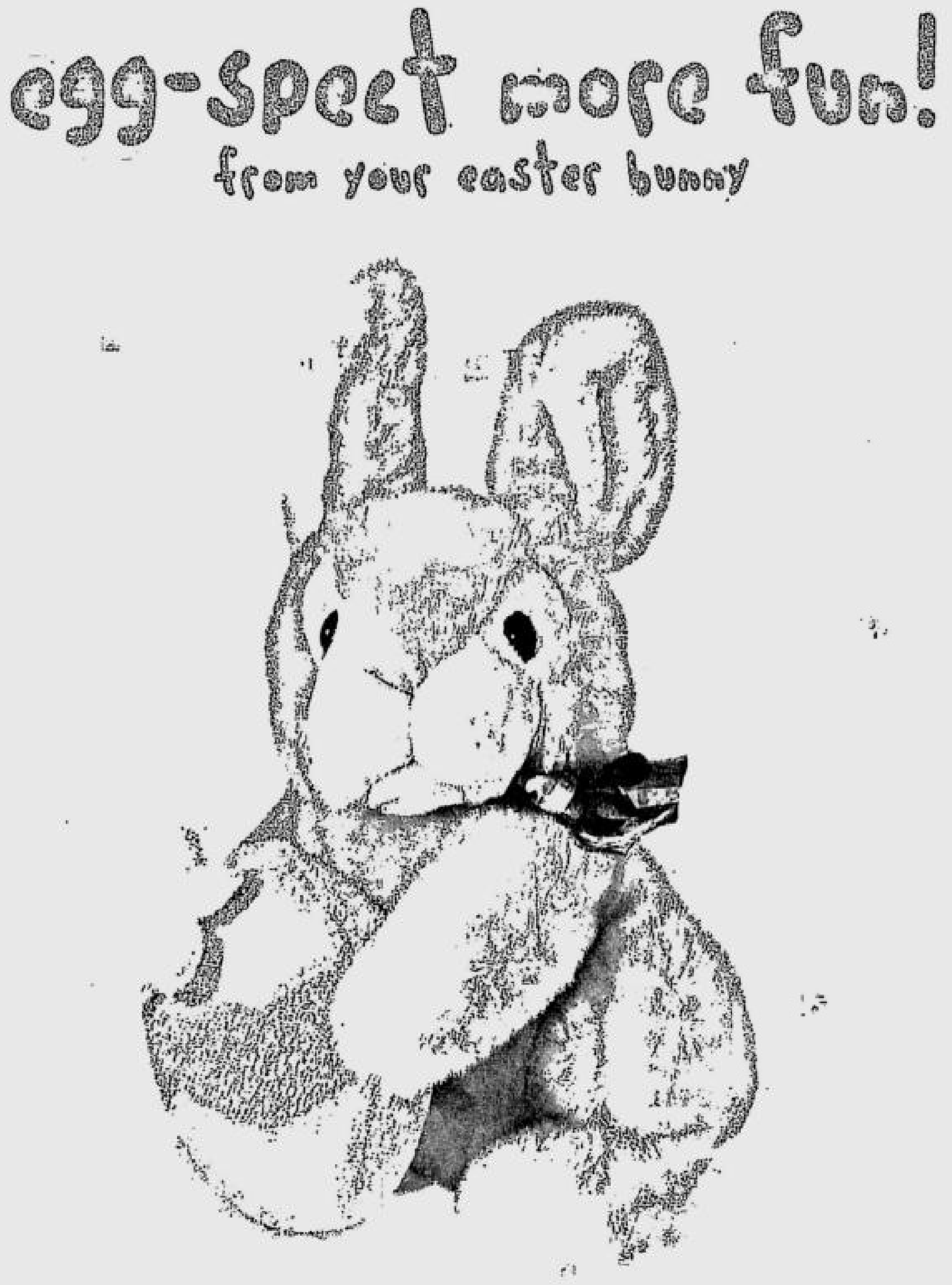

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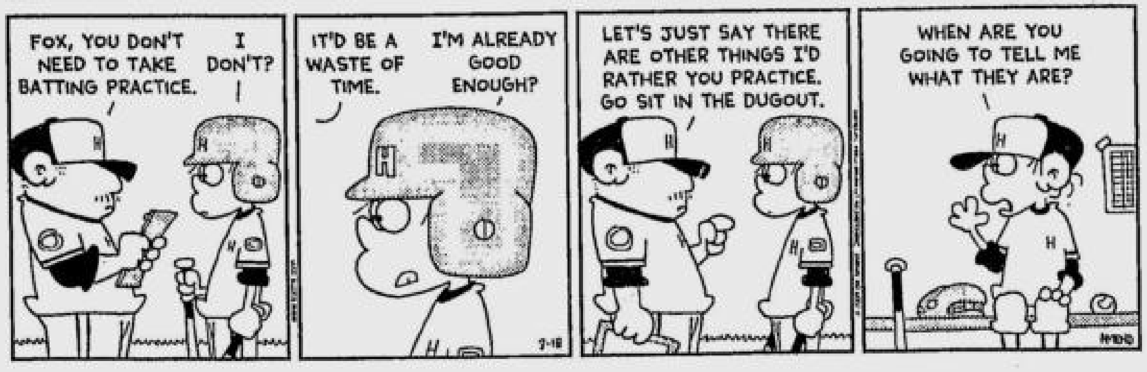
Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.

INQUIRER WWF

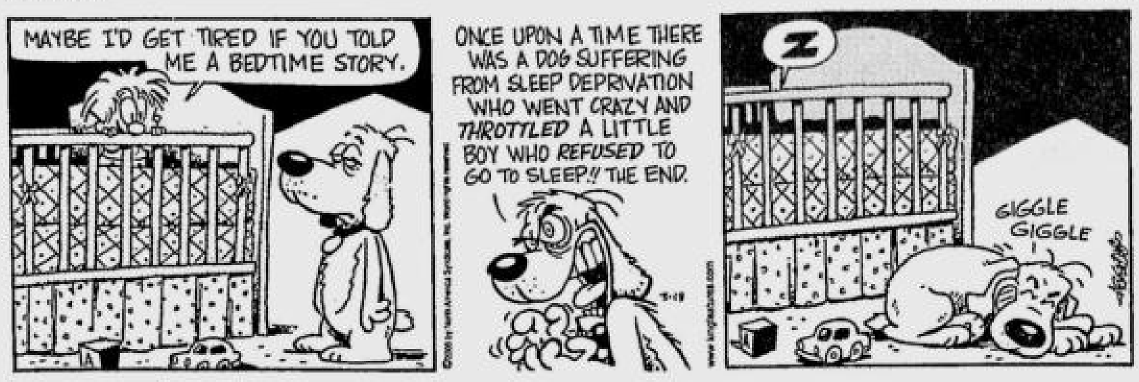
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


FOX, YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE BATTING PRACTICE.
I DON'T?
IT'D BE A WASTE OF TIME.
I'M ALREADY GOOD ENOUGH?
LET'S JUST SAY THERE ARE OTHER THINGS I'D RATHER YOU PRACTICE. GO SIT IN THE DUGOUT.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT THEY ARE?

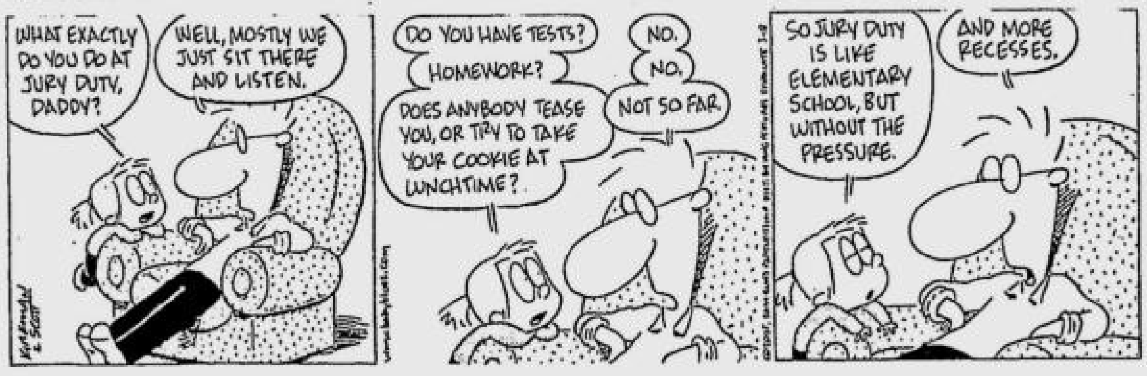
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAYBE I'D GET TIRED IF YOU TOLD ME A BEDTIME STORY.
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A DOG SUFFERING FROM SLEEP DEPRIVATION WHO WENT CRAZY AND THROTTLED A LITTLE BOY WHO REFUSED TO GO TO SLEEP!! THE END.
Z
GIGGLE GIGGLE

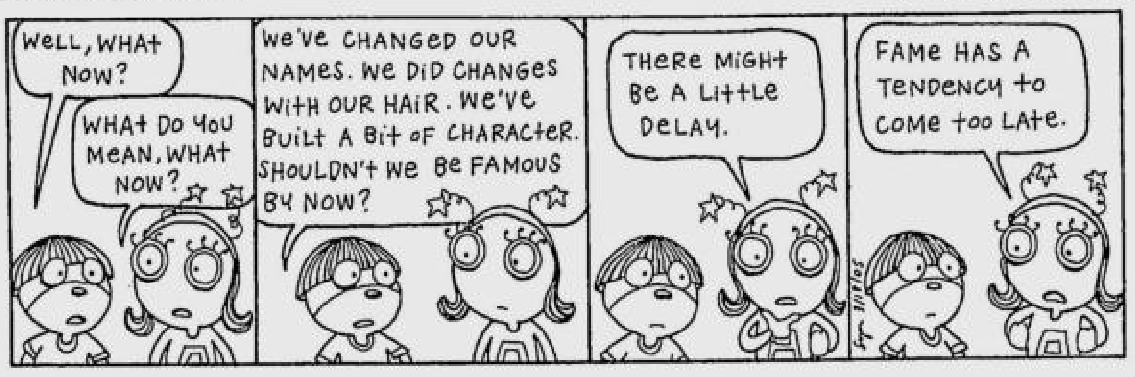
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU DO AT JURY DUTY, DADDY?
WELL, MOSTLY WE JUST SIT THERE AND LISTEN.
DO YOU HAVE TESTS?
NO.
HOMEWORK?
NO.
DOES ANYBODY TEASE YOU, OR TRY TO TAKE YOUR COOKIE AT LUNCHTIME?
NOT SO FAR.
SO JURY DUTY IS LIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUT WITHOUT THE PRESSURE.
AND MORE RECESSES.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, WHAT NOW?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT NOW?
WE'VE CHANGED OUR NAMES. WE DID CHANGES WITH OUR HAIR. WE'VE BUILT A BIT OF CHARACTER. SHOULDN'T WE BE FAMOUS BY NOW?
THERE MIGHT BE A LITTLE DELAY.
FAME HAS A TENDENCY TO COME TOO LATE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are highly intuitive; you're also extremely diplomatic and charming. It's important for you to work on becoming a better person. (This matters to you.) You work well as a middle person (an agent, broker or ombudsman.) You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to pursue your dreams. The year ahead is full of exciting new beginnings!

Birthdate of: Queen Latifah, singer/actress; Wilson Pickett, soul star; Peter Graves, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Focus on home, family and domestic needs. That's what this Moon in Cancer wants you to do. You might also want to be alone more than usual. You need to do some private thinking.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a busy day. It's good for shopping, trade, commerce and spontaneous, short trips. You feel restless. You want something new and different to happen. (Maybe it will.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your focus is on money and financial concerns. Attend to banking needs. You might want to shop for home or for family members. You'll definitely want to shop for food.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today's Moon is in your sign. This makes you a bit more emotional than usual; however, it does draw a bit of good luck your way. (It's a good thing.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What you really need is solace and privacy today. Try to carve out a bit of solitude just for yourself. Run off somewhere with a book, magazine or video.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel quite sociable today. You'll enjoy conversations with friends—especially female friends. Talk to others and get their feedback about your ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might do something today that calls attention to yourself. Conversations with bosses, VIPs, parents and teachers are particularly important now. Be patient and diplomatic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Since you have a strong desire to learn something new today, visit bookstores, museums or places to which you normally do not go. Broaden your horizons!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can make good headway talking to others about shared responsibilities or even shared possessions. Define who is responsible for what.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Because today's Moon opposes your sign, you have to be diplomatic and patient with others. Their reaction to you might be more emotional than you expect. Just smile and listen carefully.

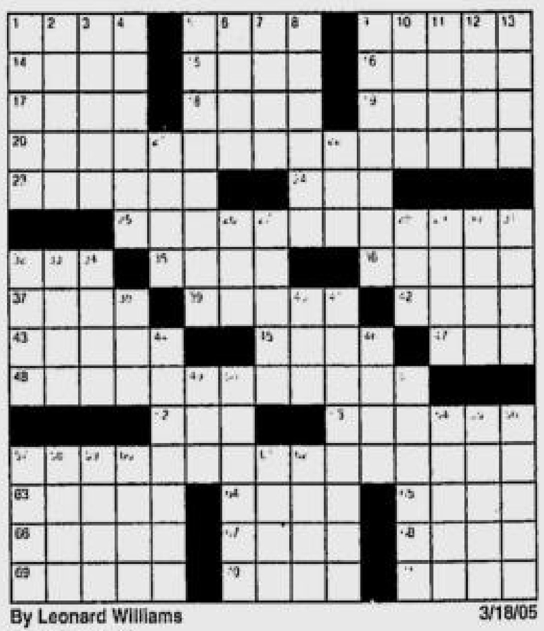
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Set aside at least 30 minutes today to get better organized at home and work. Throw away five things you don't really need. Sort papers and magazines in neat, little piles.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a playful, fun-loving day. Accept all invitations. Plan to enjoy yourself this evening. Movies, the theater and flirtatious getaways sound exciting!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Fishhook point
5 Memo abbr.
9 High country?
14 Two-toed sloth
15 Cosby kid
16 Po-land?
17 Canter or gallop
18 Diplomat's forte
19 Menu in Metz
20 Hawaiian trifles?
23 Admiration
24 Cereal grain
25 Giving Irene and Meg bad reviews?
32 Printer problem
35 Somewhat
36 Oman neighbor
37 Zounds!
39 Sound of a wet impact
42 Hack
43 Tempus _
45 Flubs it
47 Potent hallucinogen
48 Tinkerbell's attacks on Hook?
52 ATM number
53 Impossible!
57 Ducks of southeastern England?
63 Shun
64 Actor Guinness
65 LaSalle of "E.R."
66 Conductor Georg
67 Put to sea
68 Pitts of silent film "Greed"
69 State of rapture
70 Gender-biased suffix
71 Latin being

DOWN
1 Taps horn
2 Diarist Nin
3 Singer Bonnie
4 Dairy product
5 Tries
6 Return to liquid
7 Software support person
8 "Sometimes a Great __"
9 Close but no cigar
10 List-ender
11 Cut corners
12 High: pref.
13 Caustic cleaners
21 "Star Wars" princess
22 Chasing game
26 Baby food
27 Slacker
28 Up until now
29 Element in a Latin conjugation
30 Teller's call
31 Trimming sound
32 Comic Foxworthy
33 Water in Leon
34 Christmas trio
38 N, E, W or S
40 Gallery work
41 Tot's bike
44 Entered on a keyboard
46 Pants part
49 Superior salutation?
50 Not AWOL
51 Gesundheit producer
54 Gogol story, "__ Bulba"
55 Ecstasy
56 Alternative to ish
57 Funny Peggy
58 Declare as true
59 __ contendere
60 Bandleader Puente
61 __ Bator
62 Deer head?



By Leonard Williams
Fort Wayne, IN

3/18/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	■	F	L	O	A	T	■	E	V	E	R	T
I	R	E	■	L	A	R	C	H	■	M	I	L	E	R
R	I	B	■	O	N	T	H	E	B	U	B	B	L	E
C	E	E	S	■	T	H	E	I	R	■	R	A	Y	S
A	L	L	U	R	E	■	■	S	E	R	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	A	R	C	H	M	A	D	N	E	S	S
I	N	S	O	M	N	I	A	■	■	A	T	S	E	A
R	A	H	■	■	S	A	R	A	S	■	■	A	W	N
A	R	E	N	A	■	■	E	M	C	E	E	I	N	G
N	C	A	A	C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	E	A	T	■	■	E	N	I	G	M	A
E	I	N	A	■	I	O	W	A	N	■	D	U	E	L
T	H	E	B	I	G	D	A	N	C	E	■	I	L	L
C	E	L	L	O	■	D	I	N	E	D	■	L	E	A
H	E	L	E	N	■	S	T	A	S	H	■	D	E	N

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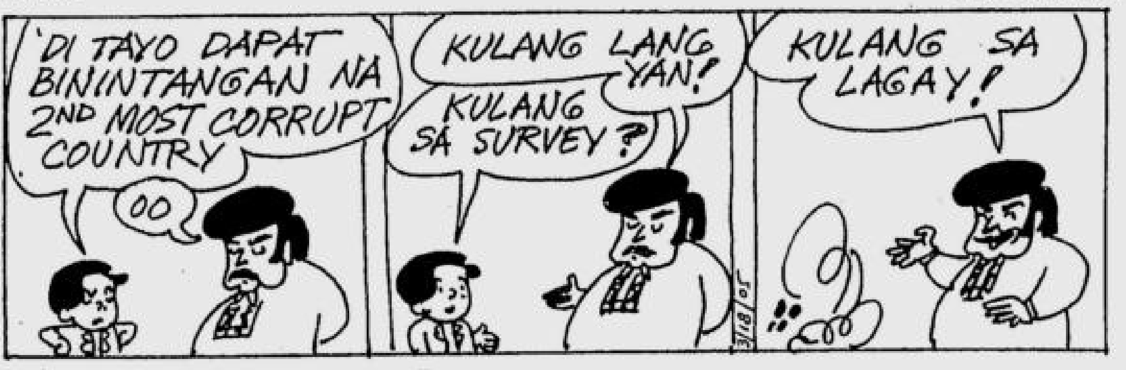
3/18/05

GASFAR
fuel saving tips
CHECK AND CLEAN SPARK PLUGS
Make it a habit to check on your spark plugs periodically. Clean plugs assure you of better combustion and less unburned gas.

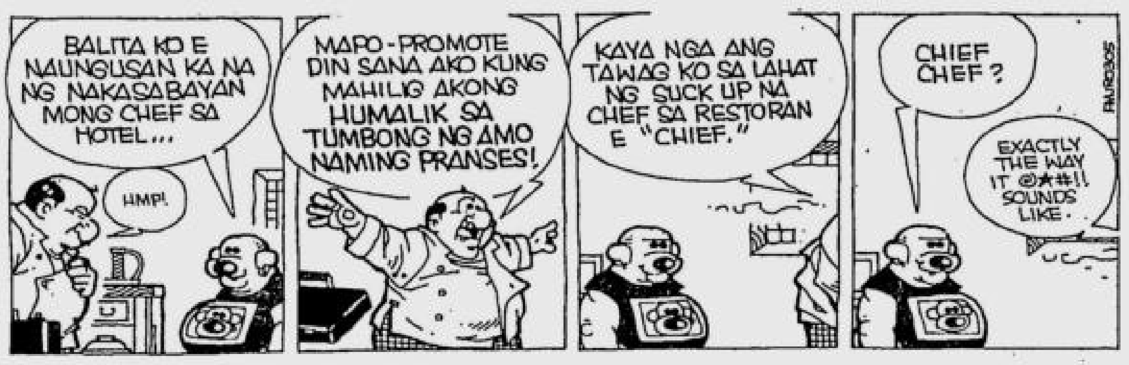
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI TAYO DAPAT BININTANGAN NA 2ND MOST CORRUPT COUNTRY
OO
KULANG LANG YAN!
KULANG SA SURVEY?
KULANG SA LAGAY!

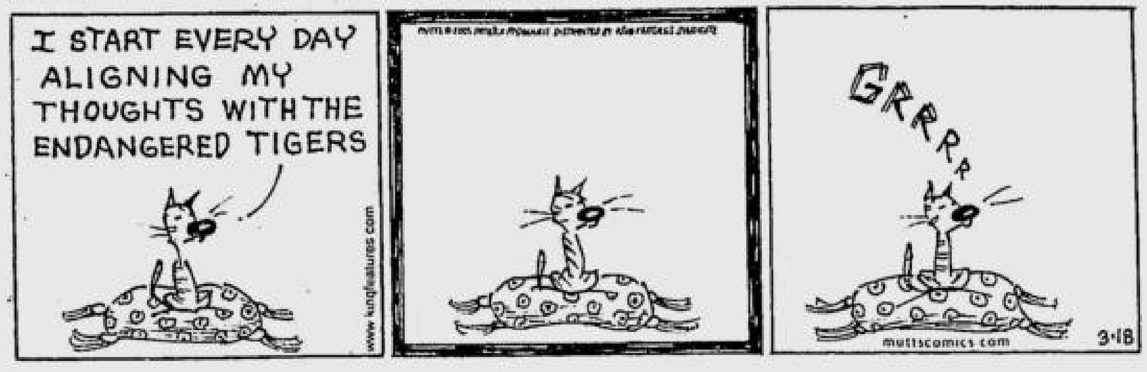
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BALITA KO E NAUNGUSAN KA NA NG NAKASABAYAN MONG CHEF SA HOTEL...
HMP!
MAPO-PROMOTE DIN SANA AKO KUNG MAHILIG AKONG HUMALIK SA TUMBONG NG AMO NAMING PRANSES!
KAYA NGA ANG TAWAG KO SA LAHAT NG SUCK UP NA CHEF SA RESTORAN E "CHIEF."
CHIEF CHEF?
EXACTLY THE WAY IT @★#!! SOUNDS LIKE.

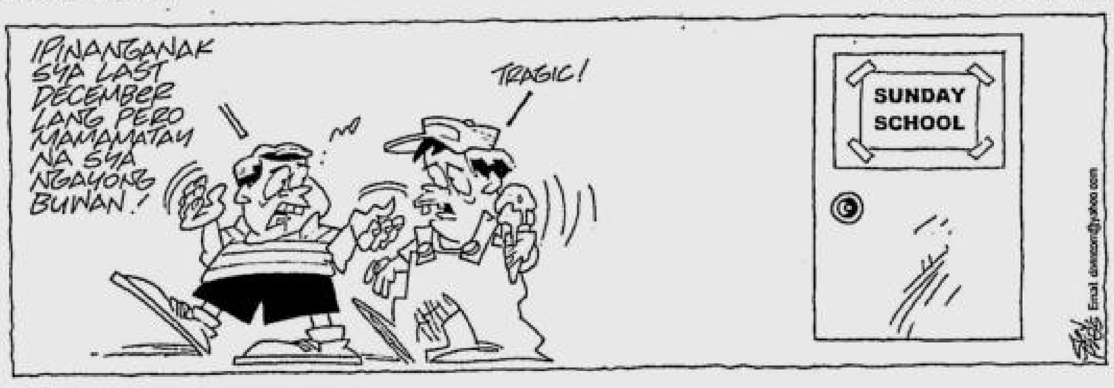
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I START EVERY DAY ALIGNING MY THOUGHTS WITH THE ENDANGERED TIGERS
GRRRR
mutts comics.com
3·18

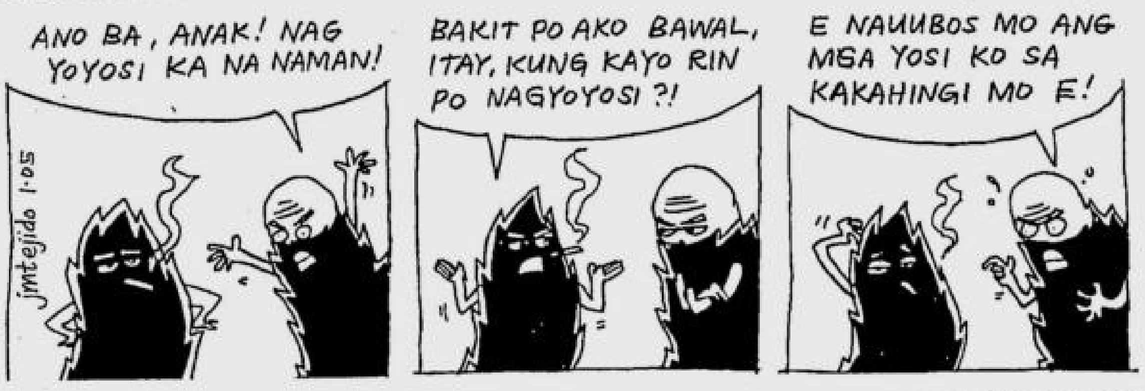
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IPINANGANAK SYA LAST DECEMBER LANG PERO MAMAMATAY NA SYA NGAYONG BUWAN!
TRAGIC!
SUNDAY SCHOOL

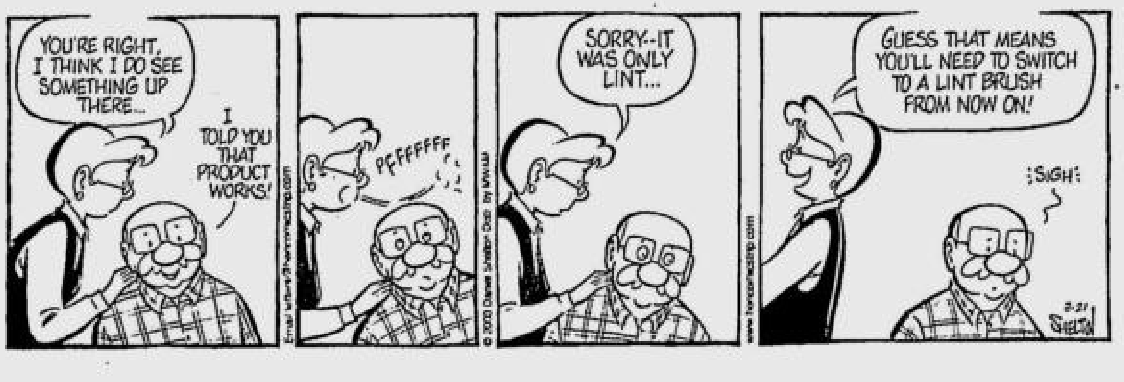
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO BA, ANAK! NAG YOYOSI KA NA NAMAN!
BAKIT PO AKO BAWAL, ITAY, KUNG KAYO RIN PO NAGYOYOSI ?!
E NAUUBOS MO ANG MGA YOSI KO SA KAKAHINGI MO E!
jmtejido 1·05

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON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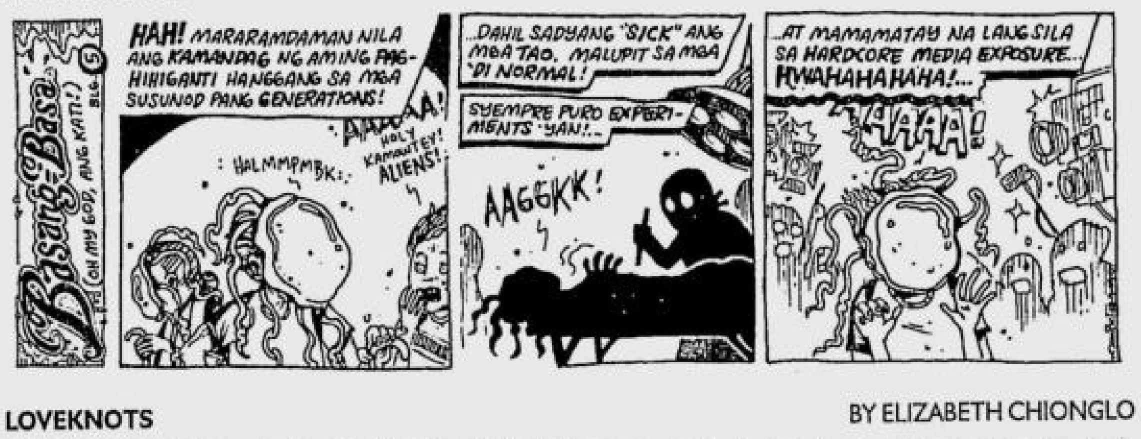
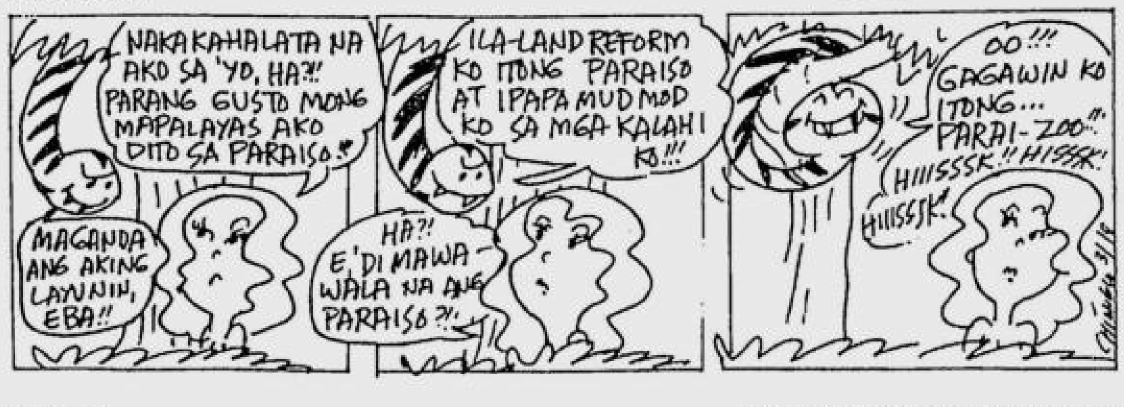

Basang-Basa (OH MY GOD, ANG KATI!) BLG. 5
HAH! MARARAMDAMAN NILA ANG KAMANDAG NG AMING PAGHIHIGANTI HANGGANG SA MGA SUSUNOD PANG GENERATIONS!
AAAAA!
HOLY KAMOTEY! ALIENS!
HALMMPMBK!
..DAHIL SADYANG "SICK" ANG MGA TAO. MALUPIT SA MGA 'DI NORMAL!
SYEMPRE PURO EXPERIMENTS 'YAN!..
AAGGKK!
..AT MAMAMATAY NA LANG SILA SA HARDCORE MEDIA EXPOSURE...
HWAHAHAHAHA!...
AAAA!

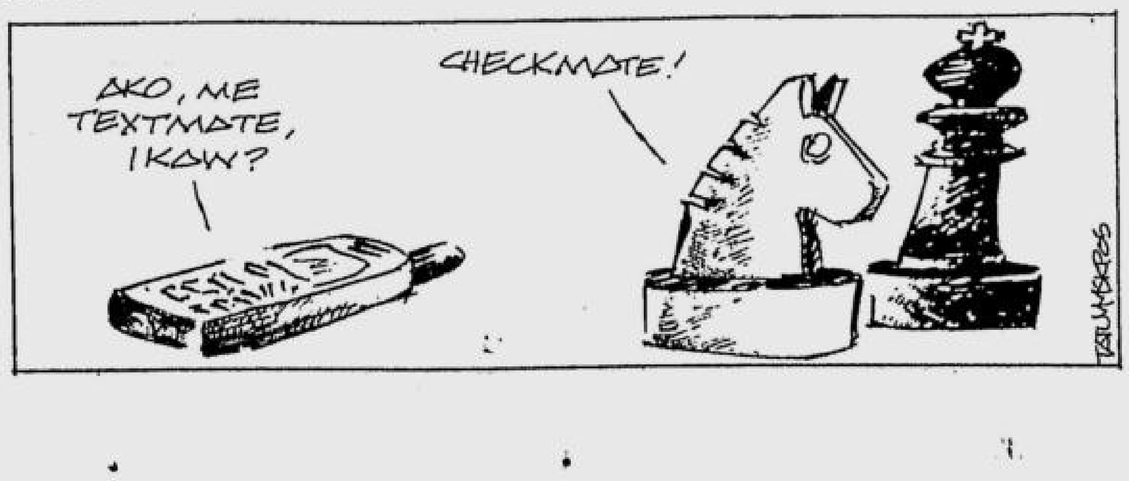
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKAKAHALATA NA AKO SA 'YO, HA?! PARANG GUSTO MONG MAPALAYAS AKO DITO SA PARAISO!
MAGANDA ANG AKING LAYUNIN, EBA!!
ILA-LAND REFORM KO ITONG PARAISO AT IPAPA MUD MOD KO SA MGA KALAHI KO!!!
HA?! E'DI MAWAWALA NA ANG PARAISO?!
OO!!! GAGAWIN KO ITONG... PARAI-ZOO!!
HIISSSK!! HISSSK!
HIISSSK!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AKO, ME TEXTMATE, IKAW?
CHECKMATE!

'Spartacus' mini-series premieres tomorrow

Executive producer Adam Shapiro tells INQUIRER why he did this 'difficult' remake

By Joyce C. Abaño

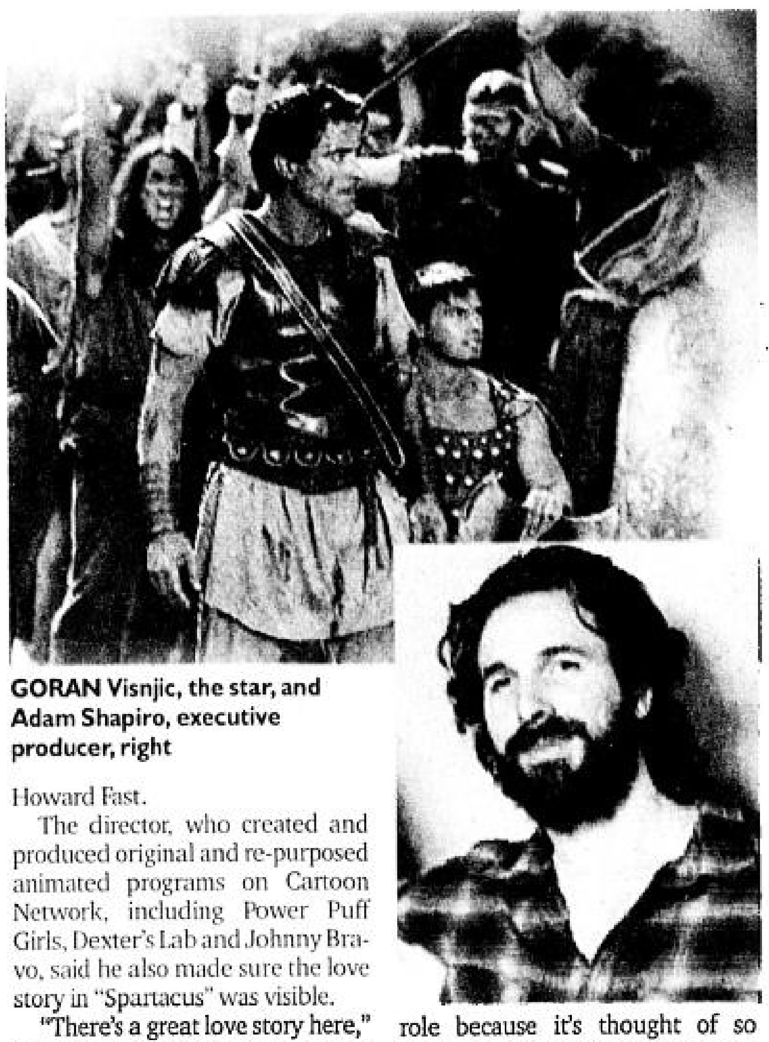
HE IS a history buff.

This was the main reason that executive producer Adam Shapiro found immensely attractive the prospect of remaking the movie "Spartacus" into a TV series.

Prior to this, Shapiro had done two historical miniseries back to back—"Helen of Troy" and "Attila The Hun." He needed this boost of confidence to tackle "Spartacus," an illustrious Academy Award-winning film.

"I think all these stories have a lot of resonance, importance and interest for audiences today. 'Spartacus' is one movie that most people have heard of but haven't seen because the movie is so old. It deserves to be retold and remade," Shapiro said in a phone interview.

New movie-making techniques facilitated the making of the two-part series.



GORAN Visnjic, the star, and Adam Shapiro, executive producer, right

Few setbacks

Shapiro recounted: "The gods were with us. We had the usual rain-delay, the actor-having-torn-muscles delay but no other issues so serious as to give me a headache."

Except, of course, for Allen Bates falling ill. The British actor played Crassus; he died shortly after filming.

The miniseries tells the story of Spartacus—a gladiator who became a military commander and outwitted the Roman generals—portrayed by "ER's" Goran Visnjic. Spartacus is idealized by the masses for standing up to the Romans at the time when the latter were carving out their empire.

Shapiro disclosed that he based the screenplay on the book by Howard Fast.

The director, who created and produced original and re-purposed animated programs on Cartoon Network, including Power Puff Girls, Dexter's Lab and Johnny Bravo, said he also made sure the love story in "Spartacus" was visible.

"There's a great love story here," Shapiro explained. "I want viewers to understand that this is also about a man who falls in love with another slave in a time of adversity. This man has no previous notion of marriage but actually marries this woman because he loves her. It's a beautiful, beautiful love story. In fact, the wife, Varinia (played by Rhona Mitra), lives to tell the story."

Shapiro said casting was not easy at all. "It was most difficult to choose the actor for the Spartacus role because it's thought of so much as belonging to Kirk Douglas. We wanted somebody with some recognition in America and the rest of the world, and that's what made us decide on Goran. He certainly had that recognition because of his TV series, 'ER,' and women really like him."

The budget was $25 million. Shapiro said it was hard to stay on course, with the number of people involved. A mixed group of around 15 nationalities were hired for the small roles alone. Skilled fight coordinators and choreographers trained the actors in sword fighting and other combat skills.

Long training

"The training went on for months," Shapiro said, "but everyone did an amazing job. The gladiator fight scenes are incredible."

Production work was very enjoyable for him, too, said Shapiro, who is currently working on the psychological horror-thriller "Incubus."

"It was fun to be part of something like this because so much went into it, all the way from the planning stage," Shapiro pointed out. "It was fun to see the actors in their tribal costumes, with weapons... it's every school boy's dream to fight with swords. It was just... so much fun."

Reviews have all been good so far. Shapiro said this was certainly the result of perseverance, enthusiasm and creative ideas put together for one very worthy project.

The Emmy-nominated series premieres on Star Movies tomorrow night at 9; replay on March 20 at 2:30 p.m. Episode 2 airs March 26, 9 p.m.; replay the next day at 2:30 p.m.

'Lord of the Rings' musical goes onstage

LONDON—After setting cinema box-office records around the world, "The Lord of the Rings" is to take to the stage as a musical, the producers announced to Reuters on Tuesday.

The show, based on the fantasy classic by J.R.R. Tolkien, is to open in March 2006 in Toronto and come to London six months later.

But the producers have promised to go back to the original tale of Middle Earth and not try to reproduce the dazzling special effects from the movie trilogy, which earned $3 billion worldwide and garnered a string of Oscars.

"We are ultimately dependent on 50 actors and musicians to tell the story rather than technology," producer Kevin Wallace said as he announced details of the US$22.4-million (Canadian $27 million) musical.

"We are going to have to break new ground. It is a hybrid of text, music, spectacle and physical theatre," he added.

Eager to quell the fears of devoted Tolkien purists who dreaded the classic being transformed into a show biz extravaganza, Wallace said: "There will be no singing or dancing hobbits. The music will be in a very traditional mould and draw on ethnic traditions."

The production boasts an international pedigree.

The music is being written by A.R. Rahman, the Bollywood film composer who scored a hit in London with the stage musical "Bombay Dreams." He is working in conjunction with the Finnish group Varttina.

British director is Matthew Warchus, best known for staging the worldwide stage hit "Art." Wallace, an Irishman, is producing the show with flamboyant Canadian theatrical impresarios David and "Honest" Ed Mirvish.

The original plan was to launch the show in London but theaters in the British capital are so crammed with hit musicals like "The Producers" and "Mary Poppins" that producers opted for Toronto instead.

New Zealand film director Peter Jackson spent 10 years bringing the trilogy to the screen.

He was greeted with critical acclaim and dubbed "The King of the Rings" for telling the epic struggle for control of Middle Earth by hobbits, humans, wizards and bloodthirsty orcs.

The producers have so far spent four years working on the stage musical, which they hope to take to Broadway after the Toronto premiere and the London opening. *Reuters*

Trouble in the Stars

From page A2-1

VICTORIOUS. Ara Mina, Best Supporting Actress, "Minsan Pa"; Jay Manalo, Best Supporting Actor, "Mano Po 3: My Love"; Malou Santos, Best Picture producer, "Milan"; Vilma Santos, Best Actress, "Mano Po 3"; Dennis Trillo, Best Actor and Best New Actor, "Aishite Imasu 1941"; Olivia Lamazan, Best Director, "Milan"

taken the money but felt guilty and voted for other nominees," Pecho said. "Or maybe these members got something bigger from someone else."

Of the controversy, he could only say: "This is really humiliating. The PMPC used to pride itself in its integrity and unquestioned choices. It used to be the most credible awards-giving body. Now, can we say the same?"

In October 2003, Pecho and two other former PMPC presidents questioned the process of selecting the winners for the 17th Star Awards for Television, citing "glaring disparities." Pecho said some artists who won could "hardly carry a tune," and shows that bagged the trophies in spite of "consistently poor production quality."

Last-minute

Billy Balbastro, 1984 PMPC president, complained about alleged "last-minute changes" in the roster of winners during that awards show. He said he received text messages the day before, saying ABS-CBN would win by a landslide.

Of the same ceremony, Veronica Samio, PMPC president from 1991 to 1993, said she heard talk that certain individuals had paid several club officials to win certain awards.

Pecho, PMPC president from 1985 to 1987, said all past PMPC presidents should meet to discuss the situation. "I think there should be a 'general cleaning' within the PMPC."

Saturday's ceremony was well attended by both celebrities and fans. This could explain why the 700-seater venue looked so chaotic.

Before entering the theater, INQUIRER Entertainment encountered a throng of fans screaming to catch their idols' attention. A group of ushers refused to let in guests—not even those with invitations—who were not in formal attire.

Inside, people kept walking around even as the cameras rolled. These people included cameramen and guests in blue jeans and casual shirts.

In one corner, performers Sandara Park, Hero Angeles and the Speed Dancers rehearsed their dance steps while the program was ongoing and presenters like Ciara Sotto, Anna Larucea and Baron Geisler took last-minute instructions from the stage manager.

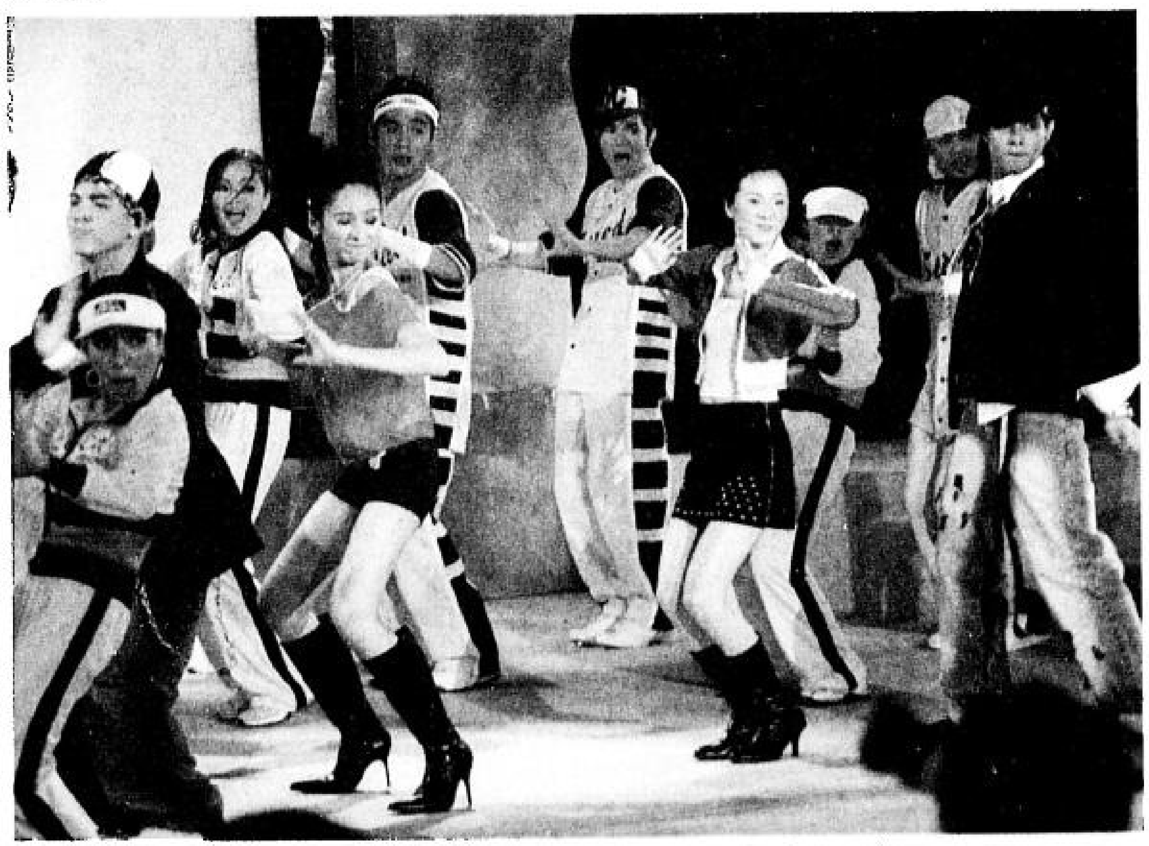
KRIS Aquino and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, lensmen's favorites

Vilmanians and Noranians, as well as fans of young stars Sandara, Hero, Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras, screamed at every mention of their idols' name and movies. What was supposed to be a "formal" ceremony instead looked and sounded like any noontime program, with spectators hollering, "Laban!" or "Bawi!" at the top of their lungs.

Jinggoy and Kris

Kris arrived at about the same time as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award for his father, former president Joseph Estrada. A swarm of photographers jostled for the best shots. Kris is the daughter of another former president, Corazon Aquino.

Only SVP for Drama Production and Star Cinema Malou Santos was around to accept the Best Picture award from "Milan." One member of the audience noted that Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN's EVP for Entertainment, was conspicuously absent, fueling rumors that she had quit working for the network on account of differences with its chair, Gabby Lopez.



STARSTRUCK and Star Circle Quest winners together in a rare production number

Pops Fernandez shared hosting chores with Vilma, and Martin Nievera was anchor man.

The Golden Screen Awards show on March 5 had only two production numbers; Star Awards had four. Pops and The CompanY did the opening number.

Star Circle Questors Sandara and Hero performed in a "dance showdown" with StarStruck ultimate survivors Jennylyn and Mark. Young performers Mark Bautista, Erik Santos and Rachelle Ann Go did a medley of Filipino songs halfway into the program.

Karylle, Keempee de Leon, Jamie Rivera and Franco Laurel sang Broadway tunes in the latter part. The Speed Dancers worked the hardest, performing in all the production numbers.

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EMI

Jon Voight, maintenance man

One of 'The Five People You Meet in Heaven,' chats with INQUIRER Entertainment

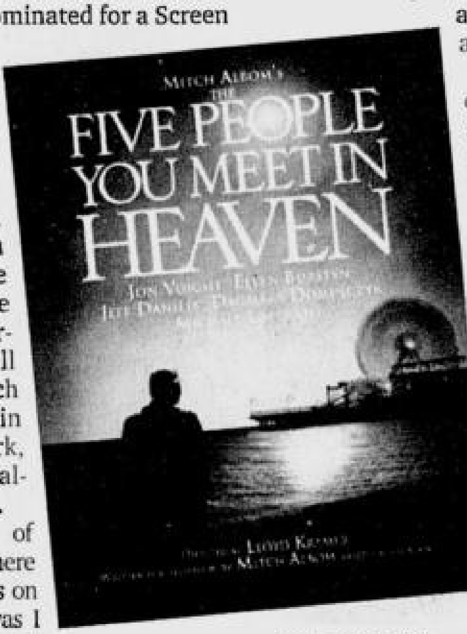
By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

THE VOICE on the other end of the line is familiar thanks to over 52 films and counting. It flows with a distinct cadence. Not a single word is wasted; not one sentence, frivolous.

The same might be said of every entry in Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight's filmography.

Such '70s classics as "Midnight Cowboy" (for which he won a Golden Globe as Most Promising Newcomer) and "Coming Home" (Oscar Best Actor) would make even the most vociferous of critics forget his latter-day potboilers. But in fairness, even the most stupefying ("Anaconda") and superfluous (Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2), he seemed to have imbued with a more than decent measure of earnestness.

Even at his most uninspired, award-giving bodies can never seem to ignore him. He's one serious actor, this Jon Voight. Latest proof is Hallmark Channel's new TV movie, "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," for which he was again nominated for a Screen Actors Guild award this year.



The Hallmark movie premieres on April 17.

For his role as Eddie, an octogenarian World War II veteran who's now a theme park maintenance worker, the 67-year-old actor pulled out all the stops. To research the part, he worked in an amusement park, side by side with a real-life maintenance man.

He recalls: "A lot of thought went into it. There were so many questions on my mind. Like, how was I going to look? How was I going to move? Eddie was shot in the leg during the war and walks with a limp. It was a lot of work, physically and emotionally."

Message

For starters, he read the New York Times bestseller by Mitch Albom, on which the TV-movie was based.

"I immediately thought it would make a perfect movie," he relates. "It is a great work of literature. Very moving and comforting. It is brilliant."

Needless to say, he feels that the message of "Five People" is especially beneficial in these troubled times.

"We all go through life often not knowing why and how things happen," he says. "At first, Eddie thought his life had no meaning. He thought he was a failure. But even while he despaired, he remained resilient."

That is one quality that all viewers should emulate, Voight says. "We [should] keep going, no matter what. We all try to rebuild ourselves. We all try to sleep at night and wake up each morning, with the thought that we all have some purpose, that each day brings with it new challenges."

The actor sums up that "purpose" as, simply, "to do some good, to try to make the world a better place." Voight, the private citizen, champions several worthy causes, among them the homeless, war veterans, and Native Americans.

"Everything we do can make a difference," he insists. "All the decisions that we make—big and small—are important. This is why we should pay attention to our lives. Our lives are valuable."

On top of the philosophical questions that both the book and the movie pose, Voight had to tackle myriad challenges on the set.

He looks back: "I had to look older. I had to be a convincing 83-year-old, so I had to spend long hours every morning in the makeup chair! I had to be the character."

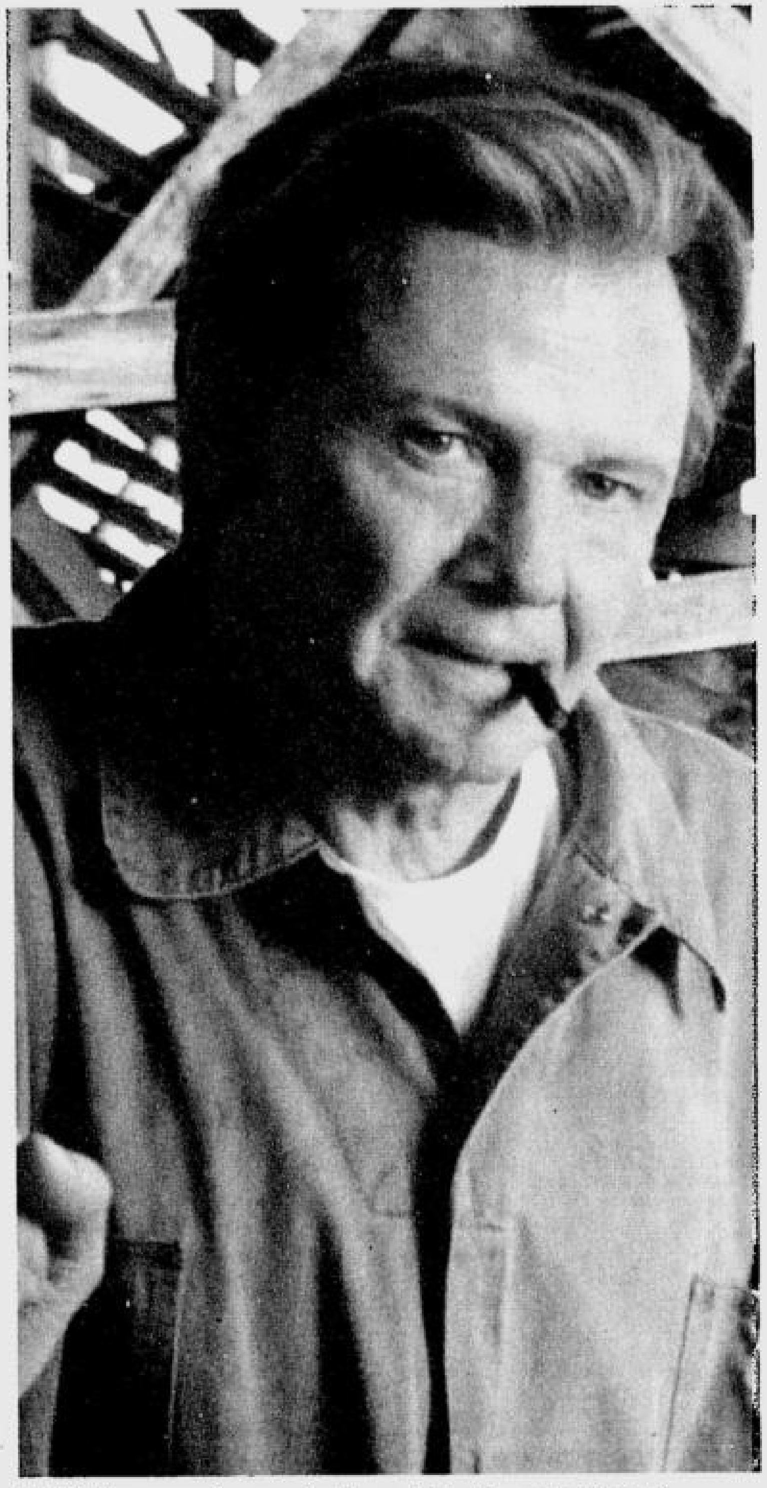
Aside from the physical transformation, he had to relay Eddie's idiosyncrasies onscreen in a subtle and unobtrusive manner. "He is a cranky fellow. But he has an innate goodness that he's not even aware of."

Helping Voight along is a stellar cast—Jeff Daniels, Ellen Burstyn, Michael Imperioli and Dagmara Dominczyk.

"Casting was crucial," Voight says. "Every detail was essential because these five people are what make the film special."

For one, Imperioli (of "The Sopranos" fame) was Voight's personal choice for the role of The Captain.

"His work has always had a certain purity, honesty and clarity," Voight says. "He was perfect." This much faith he had in Imperioli, that he personally called up the latter to discuss the project. "He told me that Midnight Cowboy meant a lot to him."



"I JUST keep moving on… to the next job, the next project."

Jamming with his fellow actors on the set was, for him, one of the joys of the shoot. "I looked forward to shooting because I knew that I would be acting and playing with a new character every week."

In the end, that is the greatest fulfillment of acting, he says, not only the awards and accolades, not just the fame and fortune.

"Also, I've always believed that the real reward is not the work that you think you did, but the work that you actually did," he says. "I keep on moving, to the next job. To the next project."

(Speaking of which, Voight's next movies are "Glory Road" and "Legend of the Conjurer." In the latter, he says, he will do "another disappearing act" like in "Pearl Harbor" and "Ali"—where he was unrecognizable in his roles as US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and sports commentator Howard Cosell, respectively.)

Journey

Which is to say he focuses not on the destination, but on the journey. This is another piece of advice he would like to pass on to aspiring young actors.

"Watch the great actors and see if you can figure out how they do what they do," he says. "The likes of Robert De Niro. When I was growing up, I used to watch the movies of Spencer Tracy, Humphrey Bogart and Marlon Brando. I was drawn to them."

Understandably, he can't pick a favorite among his movies.

"It's like being made to choose from among my children," he cracks. "But, I've noticed that people have a different favorites, too. Some like the popular ones—'Deliverance' and 'The Champ'—or a small but touching film like 'Conrack.' Some pick 'Anaconda!"

He can't help giggling at that last one.

And where does he keep his 1978 Oscar statuette?

"When my mother was alive, it was in her house," he chuckles. "My mom was very funny. She was a devout Catholic and every Christmas, she would decorate her entire house with pinecones and mistletoe. She put my Oscar trophy in a big fish bowl and added Christmas balls, marbles, and lights. It was the first thing you would see when you entered the door!"

Today, the Oscar occupies a place of honor in his own home. "It stands next to a trophy that my son got when he graduated from college. It's in great company."

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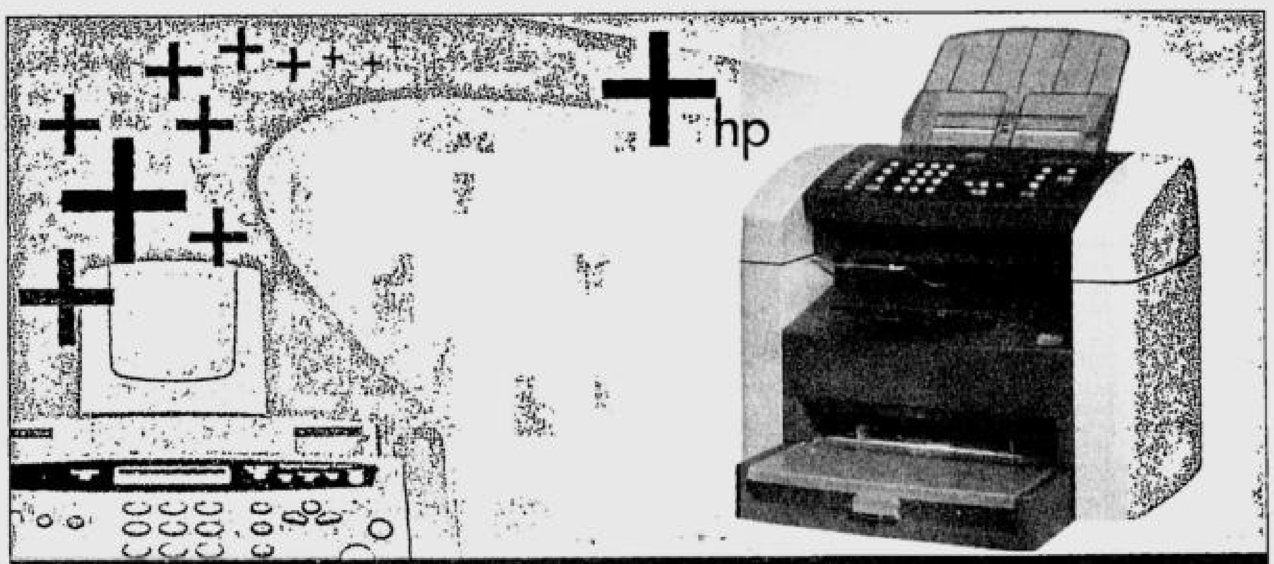

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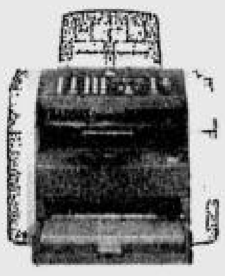

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The Big, Big Easter is co-presented by Globe Gizmo and supported by SM Department Store, Nestlé Philippines, Volvo Cars and Perfumeria Espanola Corp. Taal Vista Hotel, Pearl Farm Beach Resort and Club Punta Fuego is managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties.

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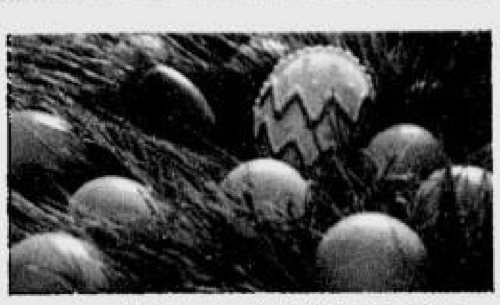
For inquires, call 733-3822 or 733-9955.

ASTORIA PLAZA'S EGG-CITING EASTER TREAT



This Lenten break, check in at Astoria Plaza with loved ones for two straight nights and get an extra night's stay free. Check-in a one-bedroom suite for P4,970/night or a two-bedroom suite for P5,570/night and enjoy rewarding perks such as complimentary breakfast, complimentary entrance tickets to the fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt, free round-trip shuttle service to nearby churches and complimentary use of the gym and pool. This promo is valid from March 24 to 27. Rates are subject to service charge and government tax. On Easter Sunday, join the Easter egg hunt with a sumptuously laden lunch buffet. Astoria's Egg-citing Easter Treat is presented in cooperation with Puerto del Sol Beach Resort, Nestlé Food Services, Universal Robina Corp, Little Tikes, Sterling House, Summit Publications and Stresscape Spa. For inquiries, call 687-1111.

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‘Mamma Mia’ at Greenbelt

SHOW TIME

ABBA lovers are sure to have a fantastic time at Greenbelt's Al Fresco Theater with “Songs from Mamma Mia” today and tomorrow night starting at 8.

The show features excerpts and songs from the worldwide smash hit musical, “Mamma Mia,” the rollicking tale of a young bride-to-be who discovers her single mom's diary and reads about three men who could be her father.

The songs are truly the stars of the show—Abba hits from the 1970s through the '80s. The performers break into song and dance as the story unfolds.

Mid-tempo melodies such as “Thank You For the Music,” “Chiquitita” and “The Winner Takes It All” become part of dialogue between characters. The love duet “Lay All Your Love On Me” between Sophie and Sky gets a Bollywood-type treatment. “Dancing Queen” followed by “Gimme Gimme a Man After Midnight” and “Voulez Vous” make up a rousing dance suite. “I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do” punctuates a joyous finale as the bride and groom, Donna and Sam, say their vows.

And it's for free!

“Songs from Mamma Mia” stars Shiela Valderrama, CJ Mercado, Nonie Buencamino, Jennie Nuyda, Melanie Dujunco, Raymund Concepcion, Jun Ofrasio, Topper Fabregas and Jennie Villegas. It is directed by George de Jesus III, written by Luna Inocian, and choreographed by James Laforteza.

THE CAST of “Songs from Mamma Mia”

Retro band at Funn Side

Tonight, retro band Men of Blue Blood will be the main event at Funn Side in Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Forte band plays at Merk's Bar Bistro in Greenbelt 3.

Great inspiration

Jinky Llamanzares, Liza and Nolyn Cabahug, Bimbo Cerrudo and Pinky Marquez headline “Great Inspiration 2,” tomorrow at Funn Side.

Merk's patrons jam with Aretha and the Souled Out Band.

BERNIE Uy

Robot, not the movie

Niel de Mesa, Palanca Award-winning playwright presents “Deus Ex Machina,” a one-act drama about a robot who falls in love with an affectionate human girl named Red. The play will be staged tomorrow, and again on April 1-2 at One Acts Theater 2/F Forab Bldg. 121 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City. It runs back-to-back with Jihan Estrella's “Death by Obituaries,” a light children's comedy featuring Koiné Theater Foundation scholars Tricia Javier and Laika Maninang.

Comedy show

Bernie Uy dishes out the laughs at Merk's Bar Bistro on Monday and again on March 28.

Also on Monday, Primeline's new talents Jeli Mateo and Rizza Navales perform at Bagaberde with Jerome and Lei.

‘Martir sa Golgota’

Tanghalang Sta. Ana stages “Martir sa Golgota,” at Plaza Moraga, Tondo, on March 21, Pagsanjan Town Plaza on March 22, Plaza Hugo, Sta. Ana, on March 23, San Juan Plaza on March 24 and Glorietta Activity Center on March 26. The play stars Alma Concepcion, Ivy Violan, Ricky Davao, Yul Servo and newscaster Candace Giron. For inquiries, call 721-0801.

Weekday show

On March 22, Livewire Band performs at Suburbia in Malate. Catch Men In Gold at Funn Side.

Ladine at Century

Ladine Roxas performs with guitarist Jerome and percussionist Lei at the Century Park Hotel on March 30.

Also on March 30 at Merk's, Richard Merk goes on stage with Eddie Katindig and Sandra Lim. Moonstrucks play at Funn Side.

Cash and Cardinals

Johnny Cash and The Jukebox Cardinals at Funn Side on March 31.

Demi Moore pregnant?

WHEN friends of Ashton Kutcher gathered recently for a night out at Geisha restaurant, the new Hollywood hot spot that he owns, they were astounded when the 27-year-old star said Demi Moore, his girlfriend of almost two years, was pregnant!

“Halfway through the meal, he told us,” says a stunned source. The fan mag Star also said earlier that Demi, 42, was due in October.

The actress is said to have received the happy news on March 4 from her doctor at the Beverly Hills clinic Woman's Care. “She broke into this huge grin and you could tell she was absolutely thrilled,” a friend said.

There are already tell-tale signs. At the premiere for Ashton's new movie “Guess Who,” the heavy-smoking actress didn't take a single puff, and sipped water instead of her usual Red Bull.

Yahoo News

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KUTCHER and Moore

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Gatekeepers (5:10 PM)*	Gundam Seed (5:35 PM)	The Road To Stardom	TV Patrol		Spirits	Krystala	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	Til Death Do Us Part	Search For A Star In A Million			Insider
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pambansa	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA		PBA		Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Trykar Hungry Heart	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin		Full House	Stairway To Heaven	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Just For Laughs	Enterprise		Monk		Dead Zone		Newswatch Now	Freestyle All Hits		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Mosconi Cup					IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
Solar		WWE Velocity		Thunder Box		Restol	Ozzy & Drix	Mucha Lucha!	The Sib Show	Stargate SG1		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		Wow	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	1, 2, 3	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		What I Like About You	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News		Will & Grace		Iron Chef				Tonight Show With Jay Leno			
Cinema One		Ang Erpat Kong Astig		Annabelle Huggins, Ruben Ablaza Tragedy				Utol			Review Night	Vampire Hunters				Warat			
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League			Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		Snatch				Canon AXN Xtreme	Now See This	Samurai X	Samurai X	Andromeda (Season III)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Rated X	Cold Squad		The Cable Guy			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Really Caught In The Act		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News		World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Castro		Inside The Pentagon		The FBI		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Edge Of Universal			
Solar Sports	Copenhagen Masters MD Final		WTA '05 Volvo Women's Open SF1		Sounds of the Finals	2005 All England Badminton Finals						In This Corner		NBA Game Sacramento @ Golden State					GWS Ep.11-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest							Back To Basics		
HBO	Live From Baghdad				Abuse Of Power (4:20 PM)			The Brady Bunch In The White House			Pavement			Bad Boys II					How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
Star Movies		Special Forces (3:15 PM)				F/X 2				When a Man Loves A Woman				Liar Liar			Child's Play		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Justice League Unlimited	Toon Pick	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Megas XLR	Aqua Teen (11:15PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN			Asian Tour TCL Classic day2				Soccer FIFA Fever	Goals!	World Snooker Trick Shot Masters '04				World Tenpin Masters '04		Sportscenter Asia	World Tenpin Masters '04		Eng. Premier League Preview	Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Unlikative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/Unlikative Bunny	Atlantis: Milo's Return			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	The Adventures Of The Great Mouse Detective	
Cinemax	Bad To The Bone			Billy Madison			Dark Angel			Blade II				Darkman 3			Countdown		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Back When We Were Grown Ups				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: FB Eye		Longshot			Five Days To Midnight		Judging Amy (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Junkyard Wars		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Crime Night	
MTV Philippines		Whatever Things											Be Seen @ MTV						
Sports Plus				Arc Basketball Wake Forest @ N. Carolina				Italia Serie A				World Poker Tour ep 9 Los Angeles				Inside the PGA	The Honda Classic Highlights		Bay Hill Invitational Day3
EWTN	Does The Church Still Teach That	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Image Of God	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Search And Rescue	Your Call	EWTN Gallery	Life on The Rock Encore		Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Defending Life	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

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Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan
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Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Home is the sweet jazz child

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

THE WEEKEND crowd sits transfixed. The band onstage at the new Monk's Dream club inside Wasabi restaurant on Makati Avenue kicks off an instrumental version of James Brown's "I Feel Good."

Everyone jumps into the groove, as saxophonist Mike Guevarra, bassist Simon Tan, guitarist Edgar Avenir, pianist Ria Villena-Osorio and drummer Koko Bermejo—collectively known tonight as the Blue Echoes—step it up. When the song ends, the air sizzles with vibrant emotion.

This was precisely the kind of connection that Mishka Adams was discussing earlier, before she joined the band on vocals. Odd as it may seem, the 20-year-old Adams exudes confidence. She is a commanding presence in the company of music conservatory scholars and veteran sidemen, as she warbles the French intro lines to "Autumn Leaves."

"It appeals to me, I kind of like that old feeling *na nakaka-pagpasaya sa 'kin* (which makes me happy)," says Mishka, explaining her connection to jazz music. "I'm drawn to its experimental nature. I'm attracted to the concept of improvising."

Mishka, precocious daughter of avant-garde visual artist Agnes Arellano, first showed signs of unconventional musical taste when she picked up the sax at age 10, then played it for three years. She credits her boarding school music teacher in England, a diehard jazz fan, for nurturing her interest, which has since developed into a burning passion.

She spent her summers in the Philippines where she was born. Now Mishka has returned to answer her calling.

"God Bless the Child," her debut CD, is winning converts among pop music listeners, as well, and registering sales not normally expected from a jazz-inflected recording.

The reasons are quite obvious. The 11 tracks in the album are the stuff that awakens a basic need to connect to something to hold on to, or enjoy for the moment at least, be it an emotion, a mood, an atmosphere, a lyrical phrase, a beat, or an attitude. These moments are part of life's rhythms. These songs are never forgotten.

Can't go wrong

The choice of covers works naturally to Mishka's advantage. How could she, after all, go wrong with such classic material as "Autumn Leaves," "Body and Soul," "Summertime," "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and the title track?

It must be pointed out, however, that Mishka puts her charm and innocence to good use, casting new light on these evergreens. In the title track, for instance, she provides an illuminating contrast to Billie Holiday's original world-weary rendition. Pure delight is felt in "Somewhere over the Rainbow." The childlike sentiment goes a notch higher due to an arrangement by Noli Aurillo that's nothing short of magical.

Mishka is fully aware she's got some of the best Filipino musicians as collaborators. Aside from Aurillo and the aforementioned aces likewise playing as her band at Monk's Dream, Sammy Asuncion (also her guitar teacher) lends the CD a sophisticated air, a quirky elegance, if you will, that puts this work at par with the likes of Norah Jones and the rest of the current hot crop of pop-jazz singer-songwriters.

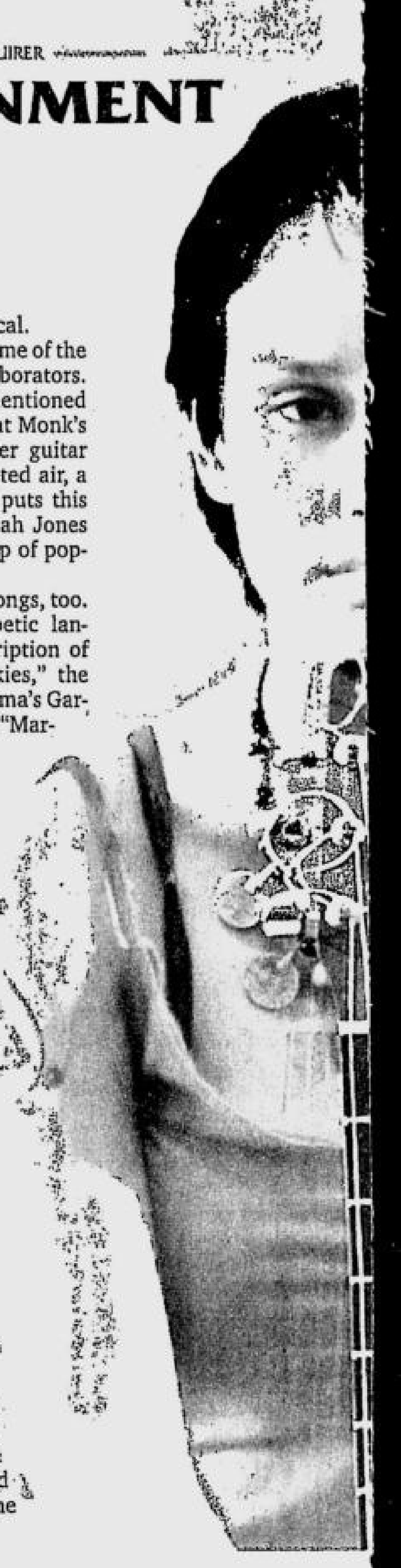
And Mishka can write her own songs, too. Beguiling is her facility with poetic language, as gleaned from her description of rainy weather in "War of the Skies," the grandmother she never met in "Mama's Garden," or the dreamy landscape in "Marrakech."

"Some people don't care much for lyrics, but they are very important to me," she says between sips of Chinese herbal cough syrup, a ritual she has taken to, like the occasional brandy she indulges in, to rev up the vocal chords before club sets. "I learned to drink brandy from Cooky Chua, *talagang nakakatulong magpaganda ng boses.*"

There are hardly any signs of Mishka Adams faltering at this point, in a career that has her record label, the UK-based Candid, eager to launch her in the international market September this year. She's due to fly and meet the Candid honchos in England soon after her recording of four more original tracks are done.

Meanwhile, back at her Monk's Dream gig, Mishka's mom is beaming, apparently in rapture amid the audience's shouts and shrieks. Mishka acknowledges the approval.

> The UK-based record label Candid is set to launch Mishka Adams internationally in September. Meanwhile, she croons for local converts



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5 HOSTAGE
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7 ROBOTS
8 BAHAY NI LOLA
9 CURSE
10 FINAL CUT

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4 HOSTAGE

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4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

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2 RESERVED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
5 RENOVATION

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3 HOSTAGE
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6 ROBOTS

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ROBOTS
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2 HOSTAGE
3 ROBOTS
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

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1 BAHAY NI LOLA

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1 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 ROBOTS
4 2046

Cine Nepo
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1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 2046
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
4 (DTS) ROBOTS

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2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

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2 LEMONY SNICKETS

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

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3 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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2 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
3 (DTS) FINAL CUT
4 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

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1 INFECTION
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1 BONSINSABA
2 INFECTION
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2 WALANG MALISYA
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

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2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 BUKID AY BASA
5 FINAL CUT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
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2 INFECTION
3 (DTS) BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HITCH
2 LEMONY SNICKETS
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 FINAL CUT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BUKID AY BASA
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Laughter: really the best med

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

COMEDY has been popular listening and viewing fare with audiences ever since the first caveman performer spoofed how his mother-in-law had stumbled and fallen down a hill at night, while running away from a huge, snarling bear whose deep sleep she had disturbed while looking for honey.

Through the millennia, family
ing audiences have loved how tal
spoofs, jokes and puns have not on
ed out the silliness of life, but also h
exorcise our fears: of huge bea
nights—and mothers-in-law!

Small wonder, then, that we ha
paying good money to laugh our
away in comedy clubs, and
aters showing fun-filled ciner
pers. To the glum sourpus
there, it may seem like a m
tal waste of time and money
know it's not.

More recently, scientific
have been conducted that p
comedy has, not just a psych
benefit, but a physical or ph
cal one, as well.

In one such study, a group
ers watched "Saving Privat
while another viewed "There
thing About Mary." The view
watched the first movie, a
ma, were shown to have co
blood vessels.

On the other hand, the
who had laughed at the silly
"There's Something About
were shown by the monito
vices attached to them to ha
ed blood vessels, and their bl
had increased by 22 percent!

So, laughter really is
medicine.

That's something to smil
because modern life has be
stressful that we need all the
can get to relieve our anxie
laughter has been shown
great way to do this.

It's recommended, theref
we laugh ourselves silly at
minutes everyday. So, pop a
disc of "Shrek" into your
and laugh your blues away!

'Kamao'

Channel 2's new sports
challenge, "Kamao," began
ing last Monday after "TV P
pits 11 young boxers agai
other, and the eventual win
get P500,000.

The 11 boxers range in
18 to 25. They are **Joel "Joe**
Garcia from Bacolod, **Jaype**
la" Ignacio from Northern
Gary "Popoy" Lastrill
Calinog, Iloilo, **Joel Rafols**
colod, **Dandy "Singin" Are**
Cagayan Valley, **Frankie "Fl**
caner from Sultan Kudarat
Tugbo from Mobo,
Jeanyce Baga from
maguete City, **Regie "Bab**
Amarante from Bagac
maguete, **Luisito "Strike**
galang from Manila, and J
Emilia from Baguio City.

New VJs

Studio 23's new VJs
Alano, Beau Canlas, Ayan
and Juddha Paolo.

Beau once played bask

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1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
MILLION DOLLAR BABY
12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
BAHAY NI LOLA 2
1:10 / 3:10 / 5:10 / 7:10 / 9:10
CONSTANTINE
12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50
ROBOTS
1:10 / 3:10 / 5:10 / 7:10 / 9:10
CURSED
12:35 / 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15

Sneak Preview - THE PACIFIER on March 21, 22 & 23, 2005

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ BAHAY NI LOLA 2
12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❷ HOSTAGE
12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
❸ ROBOTS
12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❹ BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
❺ SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
11:20 / 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
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BB. PILIPINAS GRAND CORONATION NIGHT
March 19 Saturday, 7:30pm
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April 16, Saturday, 8pm
JA RULE LIVE IN MANILA
April 23, Saturday, 8pm
THE CASCADES: LIVE IN MANILA
April 15 Friday, 8pm
MARTIN NIEVERA & PATTI AUSTIN IN CONCERT
April 22, Friday, 8pm
MOSSIMO BIKINI SUMMIT 2005
April 30, Saturday, 8pm

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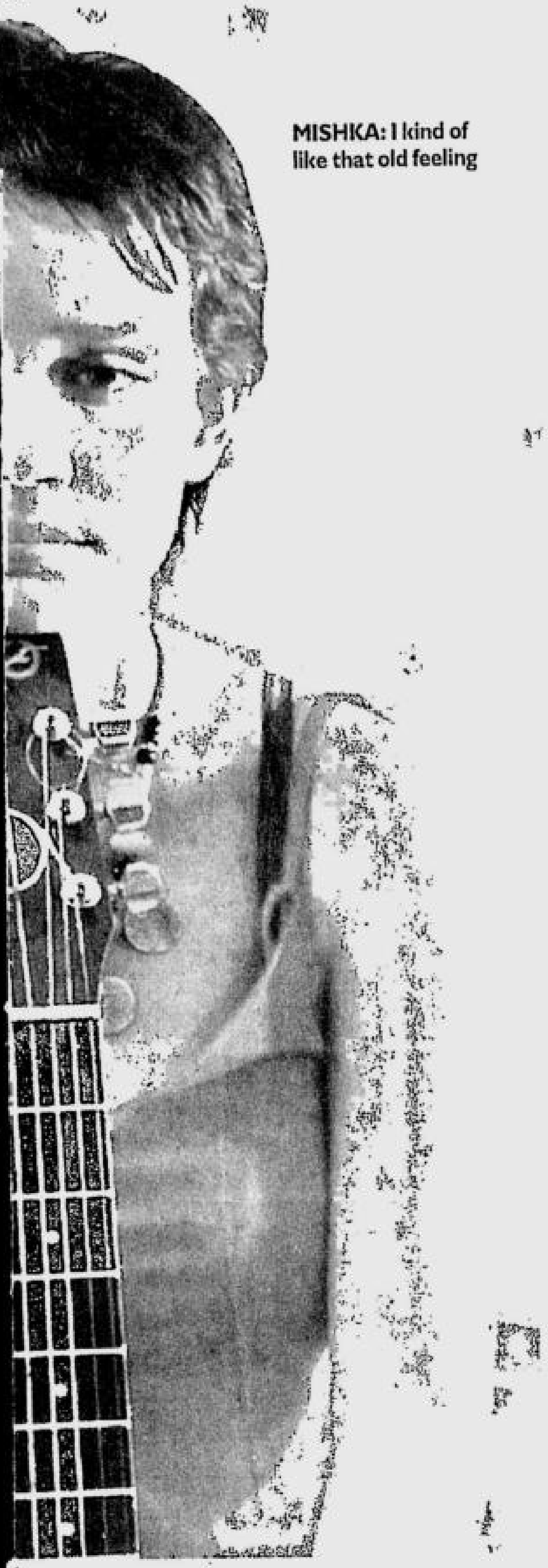

MISHKA: I kind of like that old feeling

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ball for

BRIAN McKnight

his alma mater, George Mason University. Juddha is a boxer who competed in the 2002 SEA Games. Kat has an acting career in her sights. And Ayanna is a singer.

'Gemini'

Brian McKnight's new album, "Gemini," has spawned two hits—"What We Do Here," a seductive ballad, and "Everytime You Go Away," a dreamy number.

In "She," McKnight is joined by Brooklyn rapper **Talib Kweli** and Philly soulster **Musiq**. "Watcha Gonna Do" features him with New Orleans rapper **Juvenile and Skip**, and new singer **Akon**.

Other cuts: "Stay With Him," "Grown Man Business," "Everything I Do," "Here with You," "All Over Now," "Stay," "Comeback," "Your Song" and "Me and You."

Events at PowerBooks

Tonight at 6 at PowerBooks Greenbelt, join the Spirit Questors as they talk about the spiritual world.

At 3 p.m., storytelling session also at PowerBooks Greenbelt, with master storytellers from Cambridge Child Development Center.

Tomorrow, at 5 p.m., Prosec holds a short Speed Reading course to help people read faster and with greater comprehension. At 7 p.m., Malate Folio for the Arts celebrates a night of poetry.

Disney auditions

Award-winning composer Ryan Cayabyab announces that Walt Disney Entertainment talent casting representatives will be in Manila from March 30 to April 1 to search for dancers, character performers and singers.

The talent casters are returning to Manila because they were impressed with the wealth of Filipino talents they heard in auditions worldwide. They were also impressed with the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts' management of the previous two auditions held for musicians and vocalists.

Walt Disney Entertainment will be holding auditions for talents to perform at Hong Kong Disneyland, scheduled to open later this year.

For details, call Deo Dispasupil at 632-3769, or visit www.smfpa.com. For more information concerning Hong Kong Disneyland, visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com

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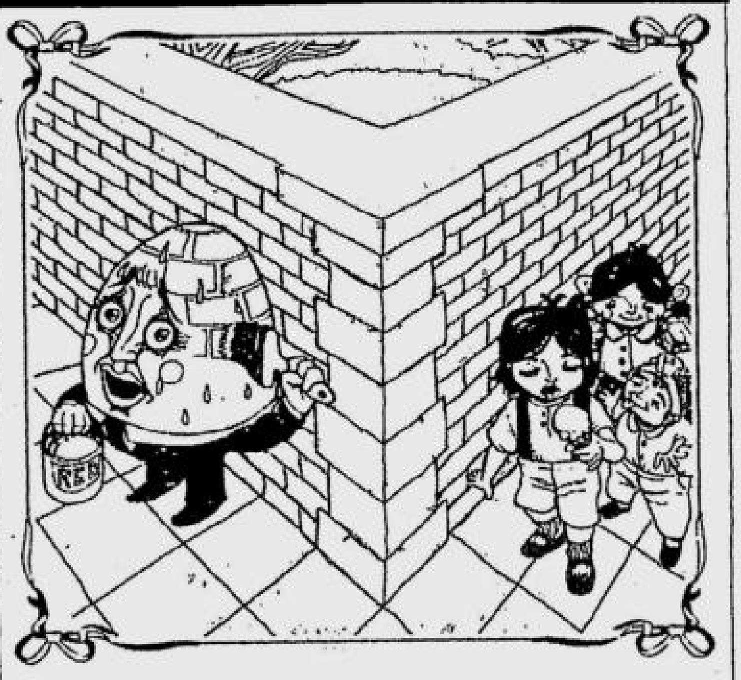
LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS GP 11:50,2:00,4:20,6:40,9:00	HITCH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20	ROBOTS GP 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00
HOSTAGE R13 12:15,2:45:5:15,7:45,10:15	MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	ROBOTS GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00



Egg hunt this March 27.

Registration from the 16th to the 26th

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	HITCH 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05 PG-13
2	ROBOTS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50 6:20, 8:50 GP
3	ROBOTS 12:50, 2:50, 5:50 8:20, 10:50 PG-13
4	HOSTAGE 12:30, 3:10, 5:50 8:30, 11:05 PG-13

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 HOSTAGE
10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:50
R13

CINEMA 2 ROBOTS
10:55, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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MUSIC MUSEUM		
APRIL 9 2005	TROY MONTERO	8:30PM
APRIL 28 2005	"LOVE IN APRIL" - PILITA CORRALES	7:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① ROBOTS
MTRCB. GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

② CONFIDENCE
MTRCB. R-13
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6.45, 9.00 LMF

③ HOSTAGE
MTRCB. R-13
11:20, 2.00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00 LMF

④ HITCH
MTRCB : PG-13
11:00, 1.45, 4.30, 7:15, 10.00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE MILLION DOLLAR BABY
MTRCB. PG-13 12:30, 3.20, 6,10, 9.00 LMF

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 HITCH • THX
2 ROBOTS
3 CONFIDENCE
4 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 HOSTAGE
7 SANTA SANTITA
8 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
9 CURSED
10 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ROBOTS
2 HITCH
3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 HOSTAGE
6 CURSED
7 CONFIDENCE

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 HOSTAGE
2 CURSED
3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 ROBOTS
6 HITCH
7 CONSTANTINE
8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 ROBOTS
2 HOSTAGE
3 CURSED
4 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 ROBOTS
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 HOSTAGE
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 BUNSHINSABA
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

CAINTA 240-4661

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 HOSTAGE
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 ROBOTS
2 THE FINAL CUT
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE FINAL CUT
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 HITCH
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 ROBOTS
2 IMPOTENT MAN
3 CURSED
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 ROBOTS
2 SON OF THE MASK 2
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HOSTAGE
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 ROBOTS
5 THE FINAL CUT
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

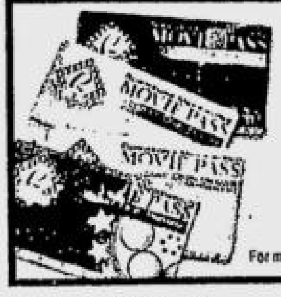
1 BUKID AY BASA
2 SANTA SANTITA
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 ROBOTS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 ROBOTS
2 HITCH
3 LEMONY SNICKETS
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOG
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 ROBOTS
2 BUNSHINSABA
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOG
5 SON OF THE MASK 2
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST



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BAHAY NI LOLA 2
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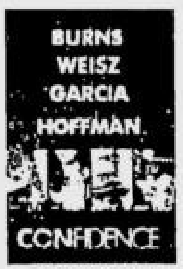
CONFIDENCE
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

ROBOTS
MTRCB Rating: GP

SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

FOR INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING, SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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VISITUS@ www.smcinema.co

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema

1. **ROBOTS**
11:30 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 8:40 / 10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:20 END

2. **CONFIDENCE**
11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 8:40 / 10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:20 END

☎ 633-8976

sm megamall cinema 1

little BLACK BOOK
11:30 FS / 12:00 MF / 2:10 3:55 LFS / 4:20 LMF / 6:05 END

☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema 1

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:30 MF / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 9:22 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:50 END

☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall

1 LITTLE BLACK BOOK smcinemaexclusive
2 HOSTAGE
3 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
4 ROBOTS
5 HITCH
6 CONFIDENCE
7 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
9 CURSED
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city fairview

1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 CONSTANTINE
3 CURSED
4 HOSTAGE
5 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest
8 ROBOTS
9 SANTA SANTITA smmoviefest
10 FINAL CUT
11 CURSED
12 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

sm city north edsa

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
5 CURSED
6 HOSTAGE
7 ROBOTS
8 CONFIDENCE

sm city sta. mesa

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 HOSTAGE
6 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
7 ROBOTS
8 HITCH
9 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
10 CURSED

sm city southmall

1 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
2 FINAL CUT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 HITCH
6 CURSED
7 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
8 ROBOTS
9 HOSTAGE
10 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD

sm city manila

1 CONSTANTINE
2 HOSTAGE
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
4 ROBOTS
5 HITCH
6 CONFIDENCE
7 SANTA SANTITA/PASSION OF THE CHRIST
8 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
9 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
10 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
11 CURSED
12 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest

sm cinema tutuban

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 HOSTAGE
4 CURSED

sm city bicutan

1 HOSTAGE SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 ROBOTS HITCH
4 CURSED MAD HOUSE

LUZON

sm city pampanga

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest
4 HITCH
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city baguio

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest
2 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
3 SANTA SANTITA smmoviefest
4 HITCH

sm city batangas

1
2 smmoviefest
3
4

sm city dasmariñas

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 CURSED
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest

sm city marilao

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SON OF THE MASK

sm city bacoor

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest
2 CURSED
3 ROBOTS
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 HOSTAGE
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 THE FINAL CUT
8 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest

sm city lucena

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 INFECTION
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 ROBOTS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
7 HOSTAGE
8 HITCH

sm city iloilo

1 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
2 RESERVED
3 SON OF THE MASK
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 THE AVIATOR
6 ROBOTS
7 RESERVED
8 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest

sm city davao

1 ROBOTS
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 HITCH

sm city cagayan de oro

1 THE AVIATOR
2 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
3 INFECTION
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST smmoviefest

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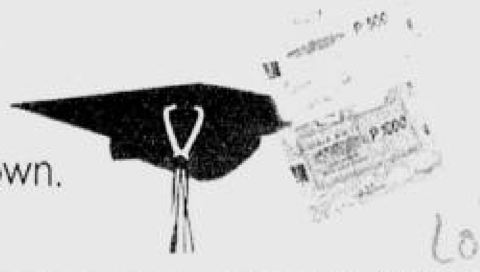

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GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Installment Madness arch 2-28, 2005	**Summer Boat Show** March 18-22, 2005	**STI Prep School's Graduation Program** March 18, 2005

Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
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for the Month of March

Ayala MUSEUM

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For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

AYALA CINEMAS

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 SPANGLISH	2 HITCH	THX HOSTAGE 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	5 CURSED	6 ROBOTS	7 CONFIDENCE
G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 ROBOTS	2 HOSTAGE		
		3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD	4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX 1 ROBOTS	2 HOSTAGE	3 HITCH	
		4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	5 MILLION DOLLAR BABY		
ACC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 HITCH	2 ROBOTS	3 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	
		4 HOSTAGE	5		
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 SPANGLISH 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45			
		2 ROBOTS 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50			
GB3	GREENBELT 1	THX 1 SPANGLISH 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX 2 ROBOTS 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 CONFIDENCE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HOSTAGE 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		

NOW SHOWING AT
AYALA CINEMAS

For screening schedules, call 729-7777

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.

MTRCB Rating: General Audiences

SNEAK PREVIEWS ON MARCH 22 & 23 AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: PG-13

Sandra Bullock
Miss Congeniality 2™
Armed and Fabulous
Don't judge an Agent by her cover.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
REGULAR RUN BEGINS MARCH 30 AT AYALA CINEMAS

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① The Passion of the Christ
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③ Shaolin vs. Evil Dead
④ Bahay ni Lola 2

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⑤ Hitch
⑥ Hostage
⑦ Robots

EVENTS! EVENTS!

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Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333(Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

'This is for keeps'

From page A3-8

Willie, known for his dalliances with several women—including the sister of Maricel Soriano, Vicky, with whom he has a daughter, Meryl, and broadcaster Sheryl Cosim—suddenly became a one-woman man.

He has three other children with three different women. "*Lahat panganay* (All firstborn)," Willie said during an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment last year.

In that interview, Willie also admitted he was constantly searching for love. He blamed his dysfunctional family for his numerous and turbulent love affairs.

"*Kulang ako sa pagmamahal ng magulang* (I lack parenting)," he confided. "*Lagi akong naghahanap ng pagmamahal* (I'm always looking for love)."

But he has apparently found true love in Liz.

Willie previously told another friend that he had immediately known Liz was the woman he would marry. But he played it cool.

"He was shy," said the friend. "At first, he didn't show his true feelings to her. He wanted to be her close friend first."

Eventually, Willie proposed marriage, and she accepted.

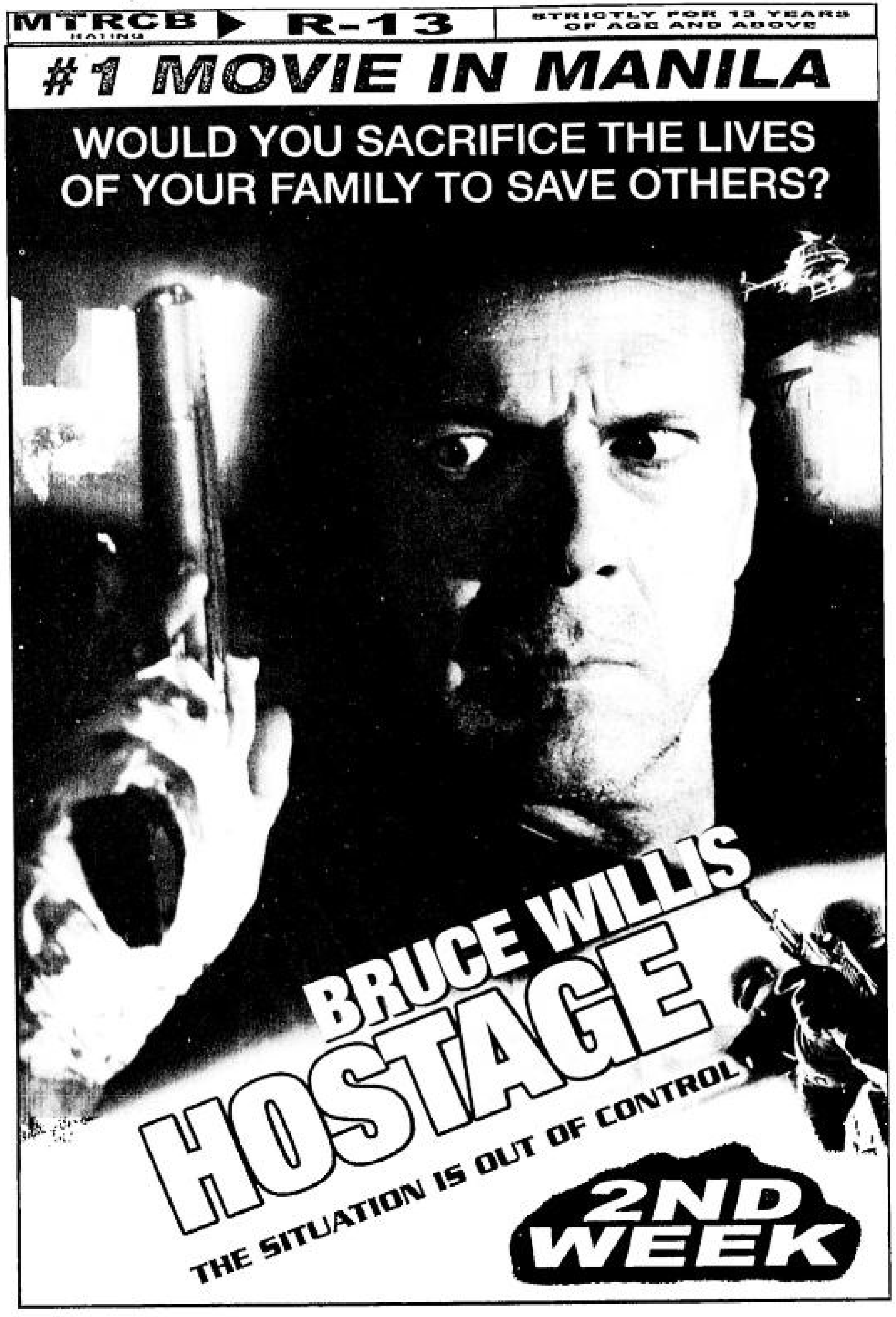
LIZ, left, with mother Clavell

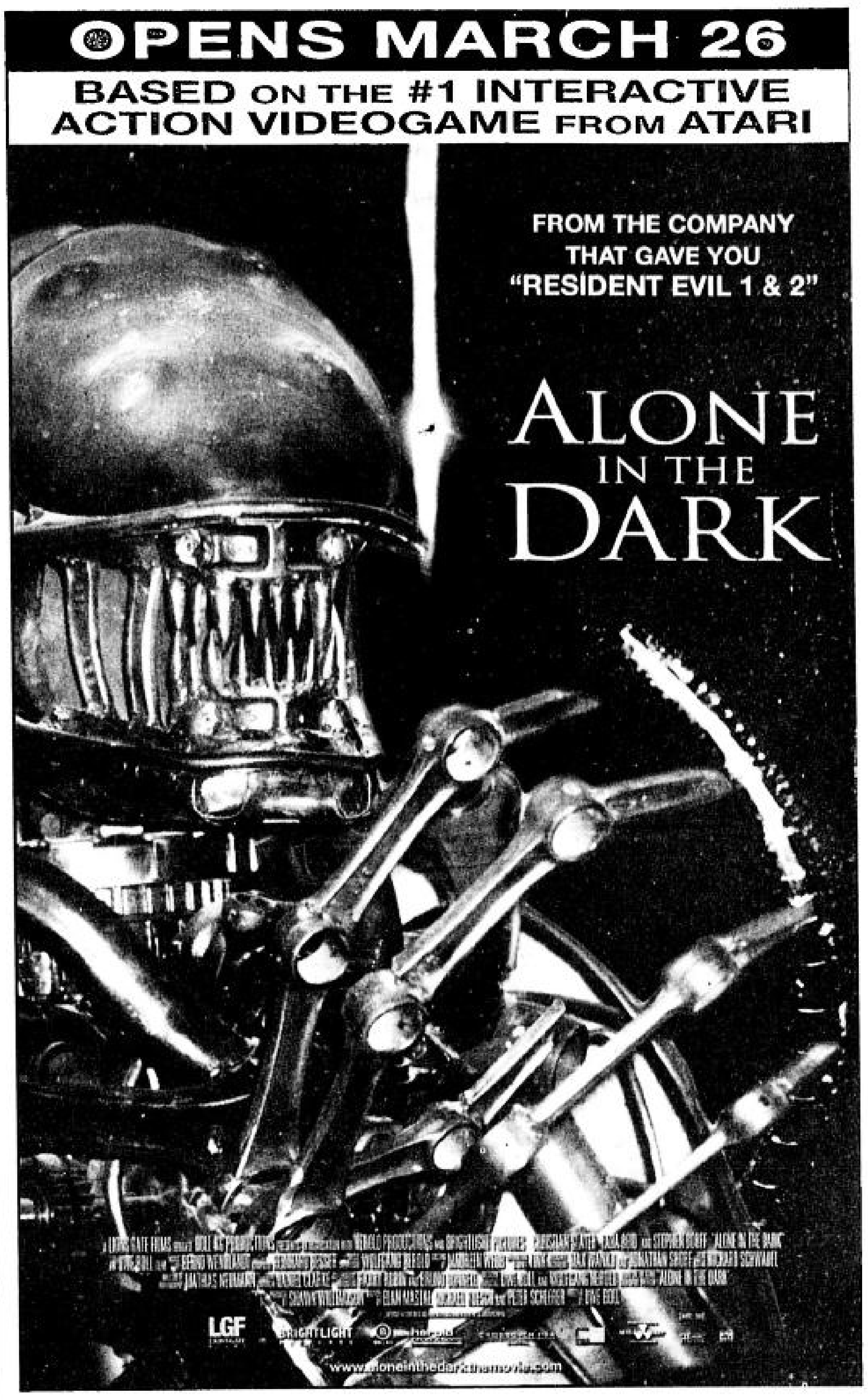
Living apart

The daughter of businesswoman and movie producer Clavell Bendana, Liz finished International Studies at De La Salle University. She was vice president of a KIA Motors dealership in Manila. She now owns Zeno Bar and Restaurant at the BMW dealership in Libis, Quezon City. Her mother co-produced "The Chavit Singson Story" with Carlo and Donna Caparas—who were among the wedding dinner guests (in a Japanese Restaurant) in Batangas.

Witnesses at the civil wedding included tabloid columnist Cristy Fermin, staffers of "Wowowie," Edgar Mortiz and "Wowowie" director Bobet Vidanes, according to sources.

Only after the planned church wedding would the couple live together. Willie is still staying in his house in Quezon City, but he visits Liz daily in her house in Alabang.


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
#1 MOVIE IN MANILA
WOULD YOU SACRIFICE THE LIVES OF YOUR FAMILY TO SAVE OTHERS?
BRUCE WILLIS
HOSTAGE
THE SITUATION IS OUT OF CONTROL
2ND WEEK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BASED ON THE #1 INTERACTIVE ACTION VIDEOGAME FROM ATARI
FROM THE COMPANY THAT GAVE YOU "RESIDENT EVIL 1 & 2"
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LGF
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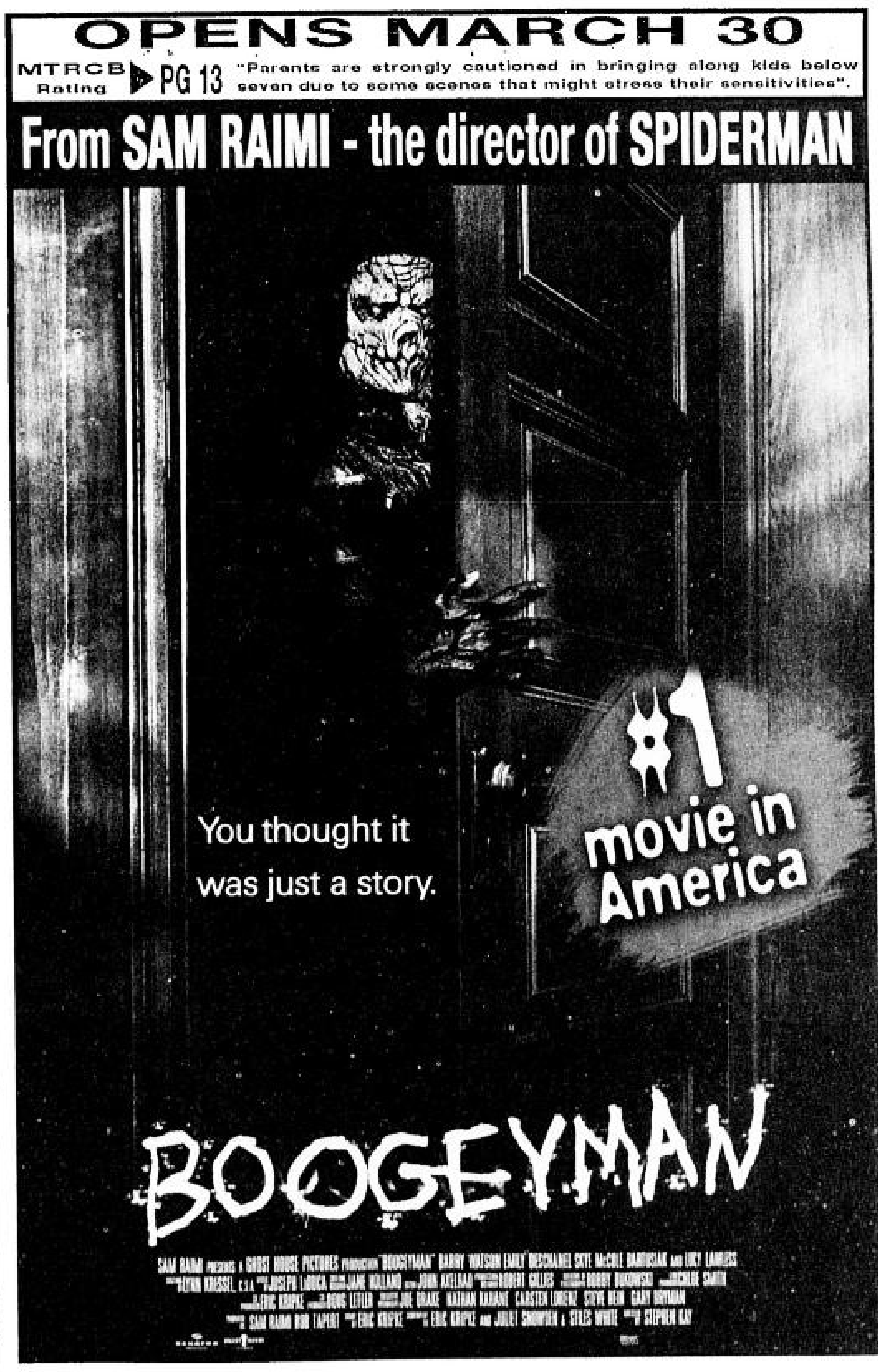
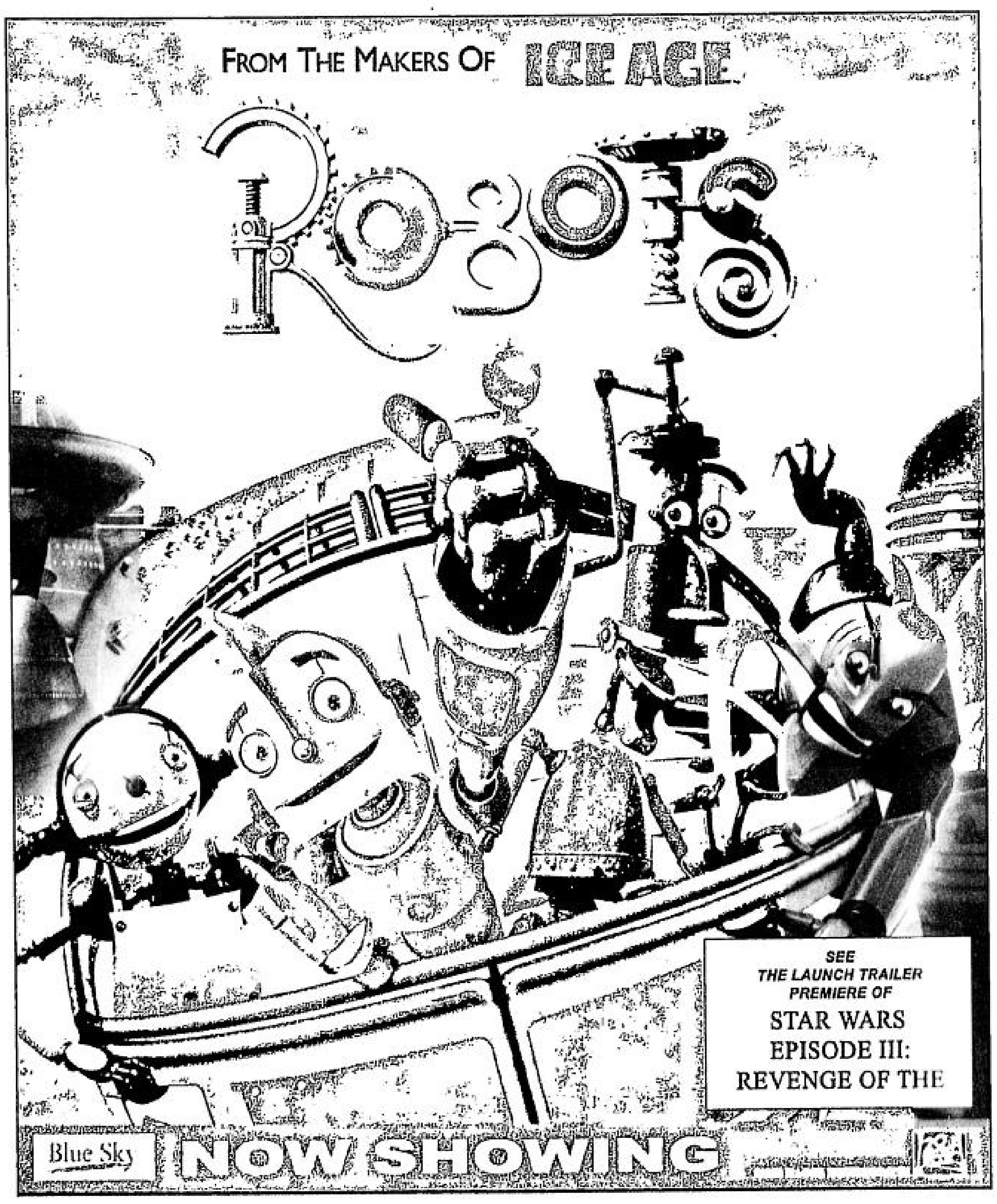

OPENS MARCH 30
MTRCB Rating ▶ PG 13
"Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below seven due to some scenes that might stress their sensitivities".
From SAM RAIMI - the director of SPIDERMAN
You thought it was just a story.
#1 movie in America
BOOGEYMAN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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
March 16-22
MTRCB Rated PG-13
A Guide to the PASSION
MOVIEWORLD

ENTERTAINMENT

'This is for keeps'

Willie and Liz set church wedding in May or June

LIZ Almoro was a finalist in the 2000 Bb. Pilipinas tilt

By Nini Valera

WILLIE Revillame and Liz Almoro are planning a church wedding in late May or in June.

The comedian and television game show host has admitted to marrying Liz, 28, a Bb. Pilipinas finalist in 2000, in civil rites last March 9 in Lipa City, Batangas.

In a text message to INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday morning, Willie, 44, confirmed that the ceremony was officiated by Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos in her residence in Batangas.

"This is for keeps," said Willie's text message, referring to his relationship with Liz. "*Matinung-matino na ako* (I have straightened out my life.)"

Willie's first marriage, to actress Princess Punzalan, was annulled about 10 years ago. Princess herself is set to get married again in May.

But the comedian refused to reveal more details about the civil or church wedding, saying he would talk about it on his ABS-CBN show, "Wowowie," tomorrow.

A source close to the couple said Willie met Liz some five years ago through friends. Liz had a boyfriend at the time, and Willie was likewise in a serious relationship. The two renewed their friendship two years ago, after Willie was fired from "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

Text mates

According to the source, Liz sent Willie comforting text messages, telling him to hang on during that turbulent period in his life. The comedian allegedly sent no replies.

But last October when Liz got sick, the source said, it was Willie's turn to send a text message, asking how she was. "He asked to visit her."

From then on, they saw each other everyday.

THIS/ A3-7

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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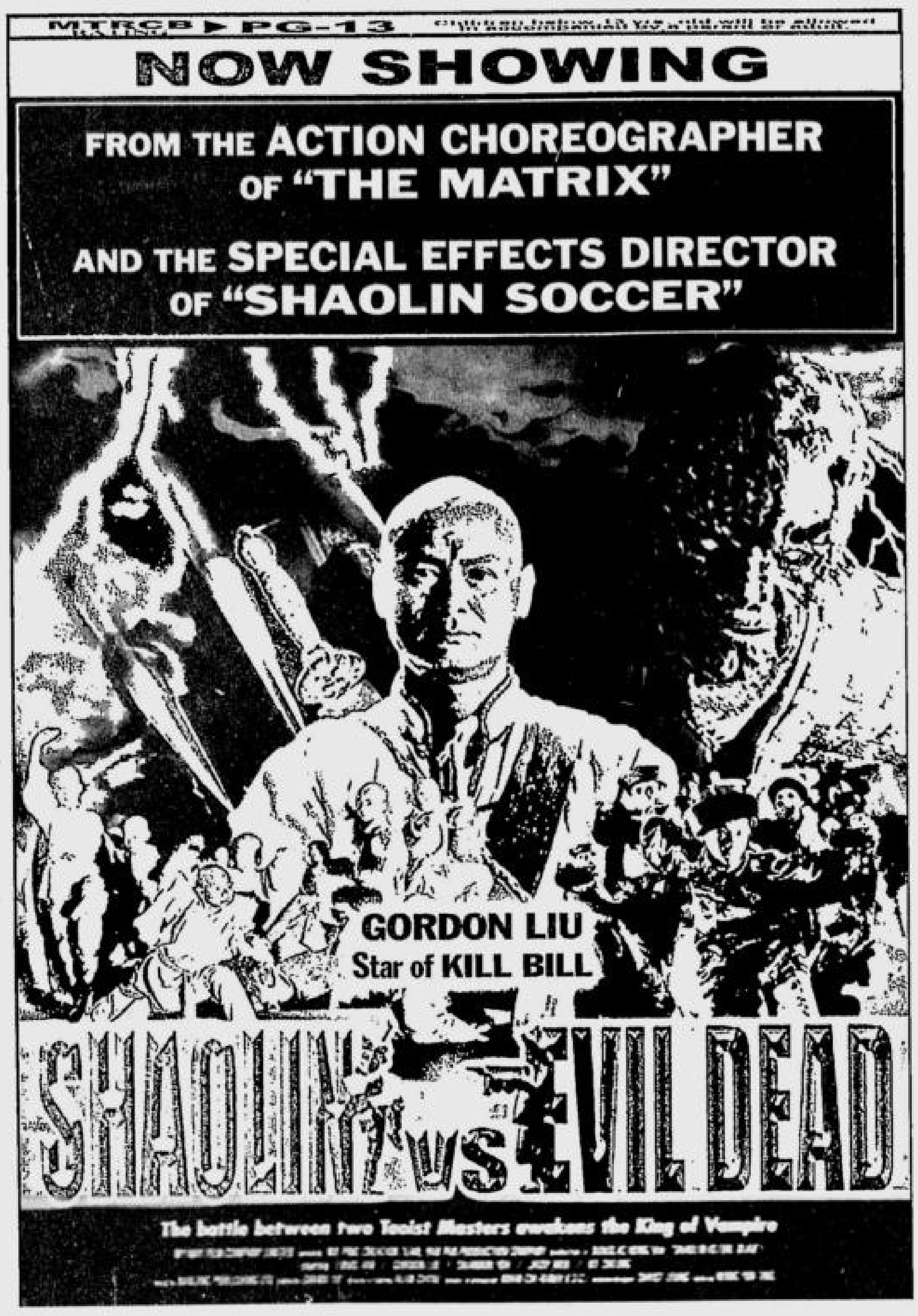
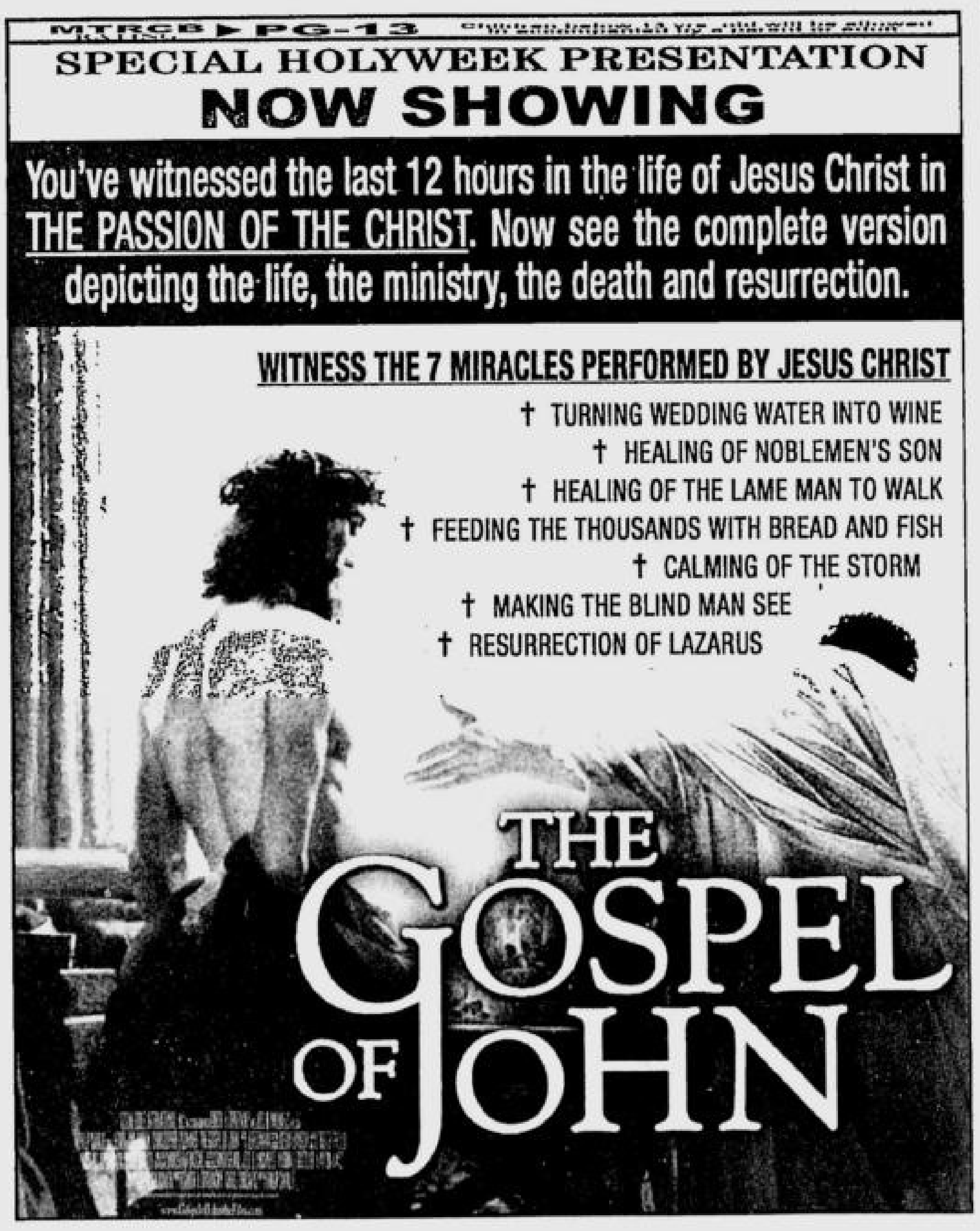
3 Bahay ni Lola	1 Bunny Guard	1 Constantine
4 Shaolin vs Evil Dead	2 Bukid Ay Basa	2 Reserved
5 Renovation	3 Hostage	
	4 Bahay ni Lola	
	5 Shaolin vs Evil Dead	
	6 Robots	

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
NOW SHOWING
FROM THE ACTION CHOREOGRAPHER OF "THE MATRIX"
AND THE SPECIAL EFFECTS DIRECTOR OF "SHAOLIN SOCCER"
GORDON LIU
Star of KILL BILL
SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
The battle between two Taoist Masters awakens the King of Vampire



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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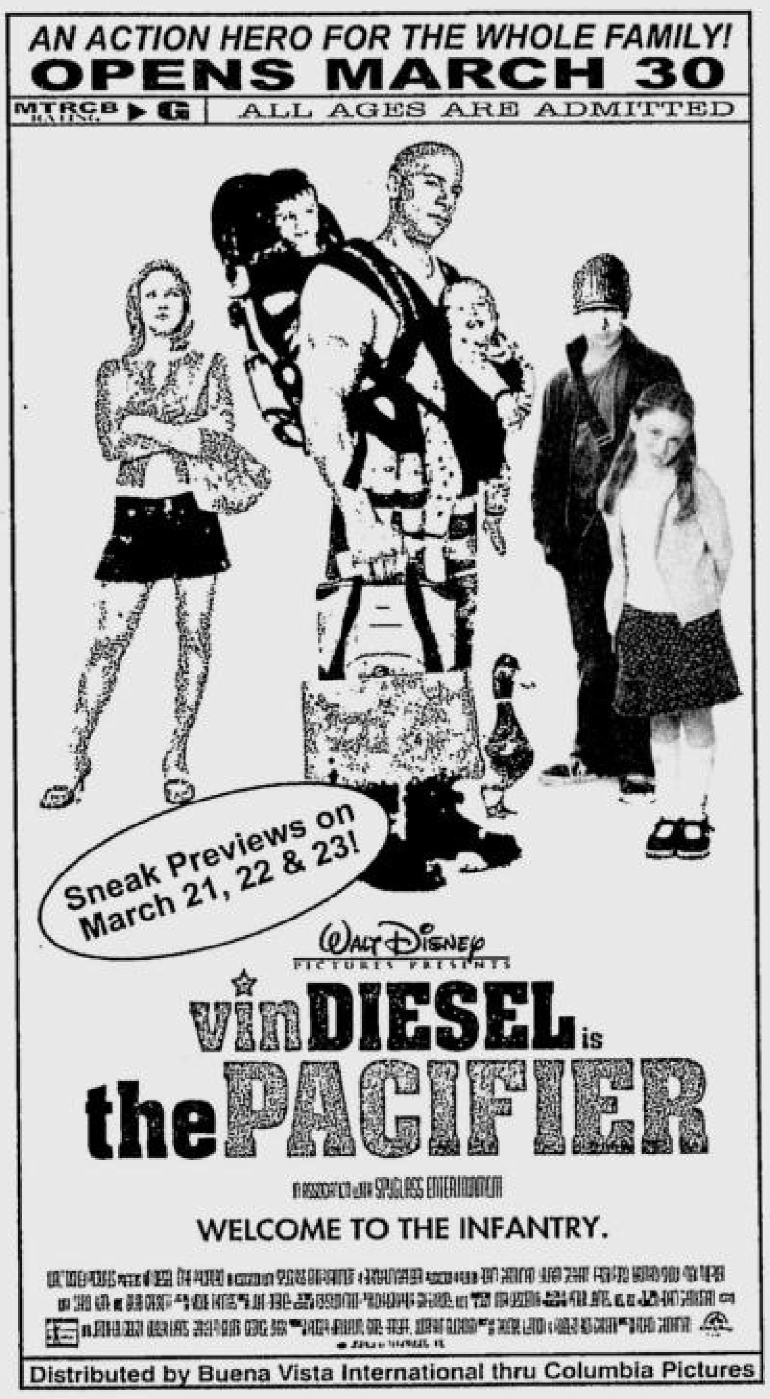
† HEALING OF THE LAME MAN TO WALK
† FEEDING THE THOUSANDS WITH BREAD AND FISH
† CALMING OF THE STORM
† MAKING THE BLIND MAN SEE
† RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



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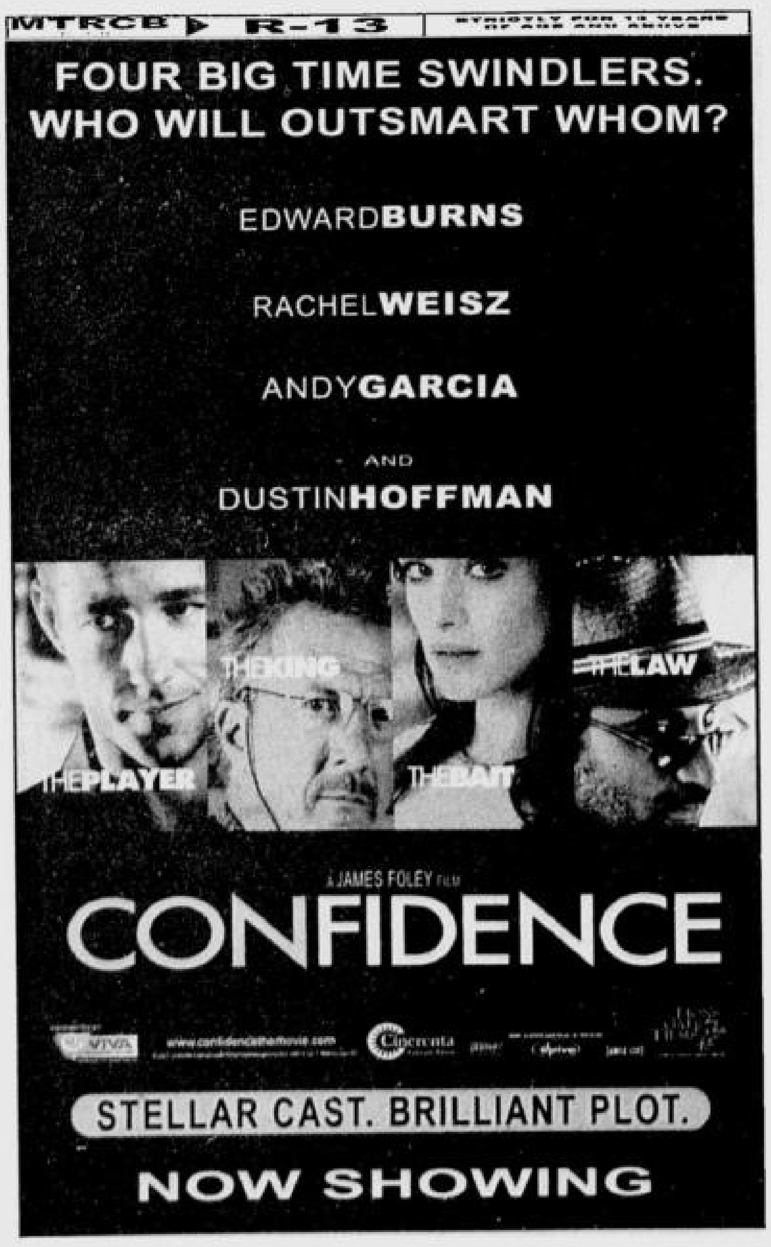

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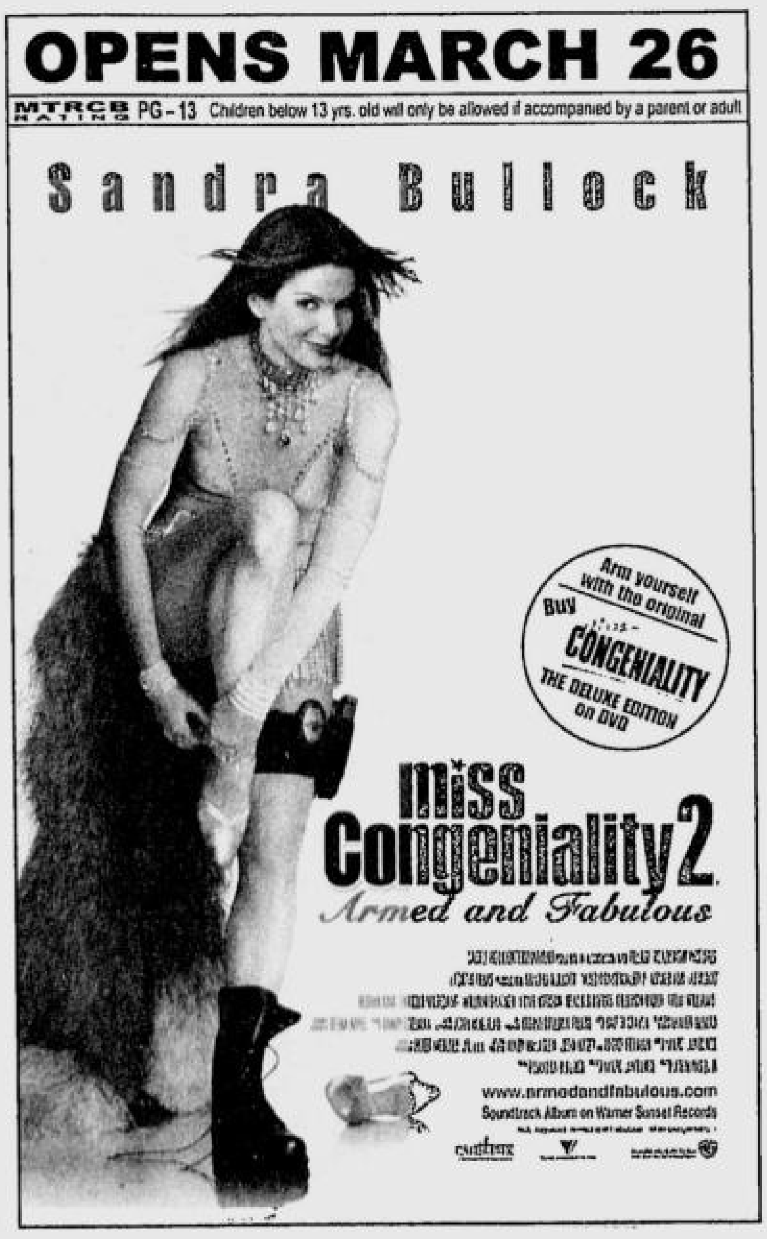

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Crude oil prices hit new record high

INDICATORS

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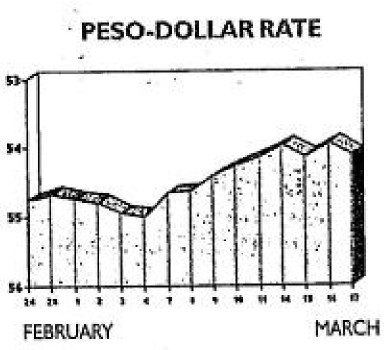


₱54.12 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 17, 2005

¥104.17 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 17, 2005

GOLD: $443.80-444.30
per ounce Hong Kong, March 17, 2005

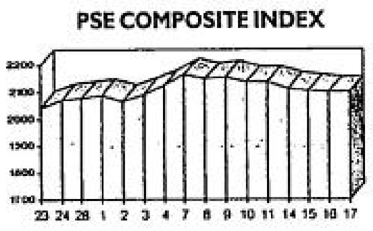
STOCK MARKET

March 17, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.745323	1.000000	53.9840
Japan	Yen	0.007157	0.009602	0.5184
United Kingdom	Pound	1.435641	1.926200	103 9840
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095567	0.128222	6.9219
Switzerland	Franc	0.646533	0.867453	46.8286
Canada	Dollar	0.618834	0.830289	44.8223
Singapore	Dollar	0.459963	0.617132	33.3153
Australia	Dollar	0.592325	0.794723	42.9023
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.977037	2.652590	143.1974
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198748	0.266660	14.3954
Brunei	Dollar	0.458547	0.615233	33.2127
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000107	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019399	0.026028	1.4051
UAE	Dirham	0.202931	0.272272	14.6983
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.341700	72.4303
Argentina	Peso	0.255466	0.342759	18.5035
Brazil	Real	0.269917	0.362148	19.5502
Denmark	Kroner	0.134275	0.180157	9.7256
India	Rupee	0.017134	0.022989	1.2410
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.196164	0.263193	14.2082
Mexico	New Peso	0.066416	0.089111	4.8106
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554804	0.744380	40.1846
Norway	Kroner	0.122566	0.164447	8.8775
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012556	0.016846	0.9094
South Africa	Rand	0.123602	0.165837	8.9525
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000996	0.0538
Sweden	Kroner	0.109954	0.147525	7.9640
Syria	Pound	0.014358	0.019264	1.0399
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024061	0.032282	1.7427
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000347	0.000466	0.0252

Shares close flat

SHARE prices closed flat yesterday, steadying after a five-day losing streak as bargain-hunting emerged and investors looked ahead to today's listing of Manila Water, dealers said.

SHARES/ B5



CRUDE oil prices hit a new record high yesterday as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (Opec) pledge to increase output failed to assure traders who were worried about tight supply.

Worries that strong demand, especially in emerging Asian economies, will strain global spare production capacity drove US crude prices to a new record yesterday at $56.69 a barrel. London's Brent crude reached an all-time peak at $55 a barrel.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose 11 cents to $56.57 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange by mid-afternoon in Asia. The previous intraday high, set in October, was $55.67 a barrel.

US crude so far this year is more than $7.50 a barrel above the average for 2004 when the market rose 34 percent, prompting fears that sky-high energy costs will crimp global economic growth.

Opec agreed to boost its output quota by 500,000 barrels a day, or 1.9 percent, when its members met in Isfahan, Iran, on Wednesday.

The agreement also allows the addition of a further 500,000 bpd later in the second quarter if prices fail to ease below $55.

The market has been unimpressed with Opec's decision, because members of the oil cartel who are supposedly bound by its production quota are already exceeding the previous ceiling by about 700,000 barrels a day—meaning no extra supply will actually be added.

Opec president and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahd al-Sabah also said the additional barrels may not come until May, since members are already supplying more than planned.

"This is not about lowering prices. It's about stopping them skyrocketing," Yasser Elguindi of New York-based Medley Global Advisers said on the International Oil Daily website. "We are going to be either side of $50 with spikes to around $60."

Traders are worried that demand could soon outstrip supply. China, the world's second biggest oil consumer after the United States, is already guzzling more than a third of the world's crude supplies. Chinese fuel use will rise 7.9 percent this year, or 500,000 barrels a day, to 6.88 million barrels a day, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

The agency said last week it expects petroleum needs this year to increase 2.2 per cent, by 1.81 million barrels a day, to a new daily total of 84.3 million barrels.

Crude futures shot up more than $1 a barrel after the latest petroleum supply report from the US government showed a sharp fall in domestic supplies of gasoline and heating oil last week.

In its latest report for the week ending March 11, the Energy Information Administration said gasoline stocks fell by almost three times more than expected, by 2.9 million barrels, to 221.4 million barrels, compared with consensus forecasts for a build of 800,000 barrels.

But Opec may begin talks as early as next week over a second output rise, the head of the producers' cartel said yesterday.

"If prices continue as they are now, then starting from next week we will start our discussions," Sheikh Ahmad told reporters.

CRUDE/ B5

Telecom firms blame NTC for price war

By Clarissa S. Batino

Last of two parts

SPECIAL REPORT

IS THIS price war going to lead to the death of the telecom industry?

The question may be rightly called alarmist, except that it was National Telecommunications Commission Chair Ronald Solis himself who posed it.

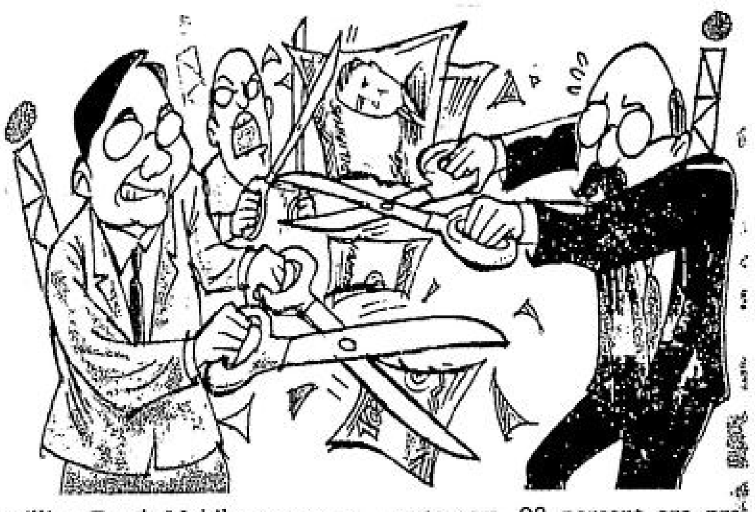
Solis seems to be bracing for the worst, as the NTC walks a fine line between heeding public clamor for lower prices and fearing a system breakdown. He said he was worried that the unlimited pricing war would cause the networks to burst at the seams. To date, there are about 34 million mobile phone subscribers in the country today.

It does not help that the telcos themselves blame the NTC.

Rogelio Quevedo, head of legal at Smart Communications Inc., accused the NTC of not doing its job by allowing the price war to get out of hand. The NTC, he said, was a useless regulator.

"It is the players themselves that are saying that no network is designed in such a way that it can accommodate a 24/7 [unlimited plan and] still meet the performance standard. For sure, the system will crash if everybody goes into this kind of thing," Solis admitted.

There was little public handwringing when it was just the Gokongwei-owned Sun Cellular, with only 1.7 million subscribers, clogging its own small network.



But the stakes went up when Globe joined the fray with its 1.7 million Touch Mobile customers last March 8. And exactly a week ago, Smart upped the ante, when it launched a similar promo available to its prepaid subscribers. Of Smart's more than 19.5 million customers, 98 percent are prepaid subscribers.

Smart has given assurances that it had devised a way to prevent network traffic jams (a com-

TELECOM/ B10

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February 2005

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March 2005

WALK THE WALK OF HIGH TRADE
China Metallurgical Corp. officials are given a warm welcome by executives of the Philippine Metals and Minerals Group at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Yang Xu, general manager of China Metallurgical (second from right), are in town with his associates to invest in manganese and chromium mines in Mindanao. ROGER MARGALLO

Foreign firms eye RP nickel project

MINING company Benguet Corp. yesterday said six foreign firms had expressed an interest in the exploration and development of its $800-million nickel project.

In a statement to the stock exchange, Benguet said it was in discussions with a Japanese group that included Sumitomo Metal Mining Corp. and Sojitz Holdings Corp. for the exploration and development of its nickel laterite property in Zambales.

It said it had also received inquiries and proposals about the project from Canada's Ivanhoe Nickel and Platinum Ltd., Australia's Rusina Mining N.L. and Metallurgical Construction Corp. of China.

Benguet could be a major beneficiary of a drive by the government to attract offshore investment in its mining industry, a move that coincides with a growing Chinese appetite for raw materials.

Benguet, formed in 1903 and the pioneer of large-scale mining in the Philippines, has said it needs at least $800 million for detailed exploration and development of its nickel property in Zambales.

It said it had also initiated talks with several foreign firms to conduct due diligence on four other exploration and development projects.

This included the King King copper and gold projects in southern Compostela Valley, and the Balanga-Bataan gold project and Ampucao copper-gold project in the north.

Benguet said it needed $500 million to prepare the final feasibility study to start development of King King.

King King is one of 23 priority projects being promoted by the government to revive the mining industry.

The country, sitting on what the government estimates is $1 trillion in unexplored mineral wealth, wants local and foreign mining firms to pump about $6 billion into 23 priority projects over the next six years—investment that would spin off royalties and taxes to help plug a chronic budget deficit.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau said King King has an estimated reserve of 353 million tons at 0.38 percent copper and 0.439 gram of gold per ton of ore, worth $3.7 billion. *Reuters*

DOE to wrap up $20-M gas deal with Ukraine firm

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is set to conclude negotiations with Ukrainian natural gas giant Suhkin Energy for an investment of at least $20 million in the country's natural gas industry.

This investment, said Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya, would be for the establishment of one mother station, and between two and five daughter stations, in strategic parts in the country.

Abaya yesterday confirmed in a telephone interview that the DOE had indeed been negotiating with Suhkin Energy for some months now and that a memorandum of understanding would be signed any day now.

"We're in the middle of brisk negotiations with Suhkin Energy," he said. "We're moving toward the signing of an MOU."

According to Abaya, Suhkin Energy chair Eugene Suhkin is actually in the country right now for the negotiations.

Suhkin is considered the father of natural gas in Ukraine.

Abaya said the negotiations with Suhkin Energy was in line with the government's broad strategy to aggressively develop the country's natural gas industry.

In late January, the DOE and the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power consortium signed a memorandum of agreement stating that compressed natural gas (CNG) would be sold for P14.52 per normal cubic meter for the seven-year duration of the Natural Gas Vehicle for Public Transport (NGVPPT) Pilot Project.

DOE/B10

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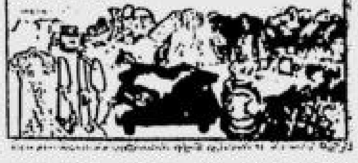

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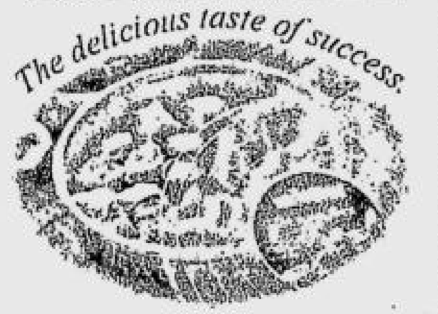

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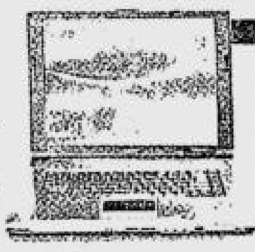

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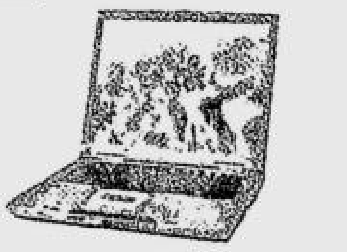

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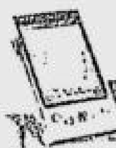

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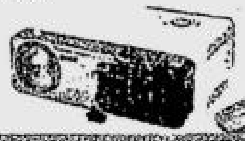

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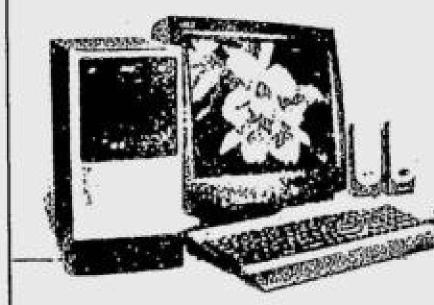

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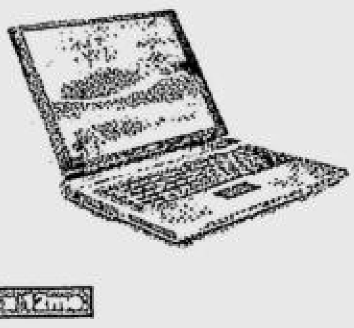
- 1yr. Limited Warranty on parts and labor



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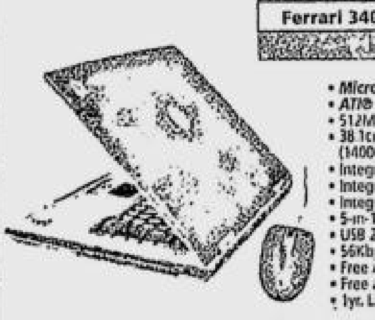
[illegible]	
Ferrari 3400	*AMD Athlon™ 64 processor 3000+*
[illegible]	



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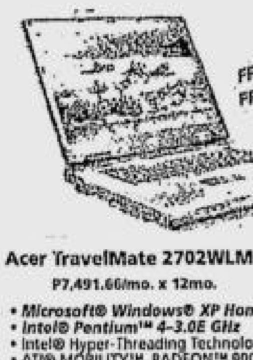

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UP economy, tax experts warn vs unwarranted VAT exemptions

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of economists and tax experts yesterday warned against "unwarranted" exemptions in the value added tax measure, saying that it could make the tax system "more inequitable, difficult to administer and inefficient."

"We believe that it is more prudent to limit the scope of the new VAT bill to an increase in the rate from 10 to 12 percent," according to the group that calls itself the Alliance for Enlightened Public Policies. "This measure is painful but the alternative of worsening our debt problem is more painful especially for the poor."

The alliance members include former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod, former Finance Secretary and concurrent Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo, former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara, former Bureau of Internal Revenue Rene Bañez and former Trade and Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez.

"There is no justice in asking all taxpayers to pay an additional VAT, while exempting other sectors from paying the VAT," the group said.

"If the government were to include some rationalization in this VAT bill, the group said this should be limited to withdrawing exemptions that were added to the VAT in 1995: lawyers, doctors, cooperatives, the importation of passenger and cargo vessels, sale by the artist of his works of art, export sales of persons who are not VAT-registered, sale of houses by valued at P1 million.

"The withdrawal of all other exemptions including that on fuel and energy should be made in the second phase of the reform pending studies on their impact on prices and on revenues," it said.

The House version of the VAT bill exempts, among others, the importation or lease of aircraft, engine, equipment, and spare parts of airline companies.

The group also said that the prohibition on suppliers of petroleum products from passing on the VAT to consumers ran against the very nature of a consumption tax.

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With increased VAT, fuel to cost ₱2.65 more per liter, says DOE

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FILIPINOS may have to shell out P2.65 per liter more on their fuel purchases and add 62.54 centavos per kilowatt hour on their electricity bills under the Malacañang-backed proposal to slap a 12-percent value added tax (VAT) on previously exempted oil companies and power producers.

The Department of Energy came up with the estimates in anticipation of the lifting of exemptions on petroleum and power.

With the exemptions removed, the DOE is expecting a total of P56 billion—P45 billion from oil and P10 billion from power—in new revenues.

This is more than half of the P80 billion President Macapagal-Arroyo says the country needs to reduce its borrowings and cut the budget deficit.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill raising the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent, and lifting the exemptions on select industries, including petroleum and power.

The Senate is close to passing its own version, but it is leaning towards keeping the VAT rate at 10 percent while removing most VAT exemptions.

The President has declared that the government needs to raise the VAT and remove the exemptions. The Palace is now pushing for the passage of the VAT reform bills before Congress goes on its Easter break.

With the outcome of the VAT reform bill still uncertain, Gabriel Claudio, the President's political adviser, said that Malacañang was still weighing whether it should call for a special session.

"It depends on whether the Senate would be able to pass its version of the VAT bill by (today)," Claudio said.

Press documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the P2.65 per liter increase was based on the average price of all fuel products, as of end-February, pegged at P22.12 per liter. In 2003, 16.9 billion liters of fuel were sold.

The DOE data showed that diesel, which fuels public buses and jeepneys, would contribute P19.07 billion in new taxes to the government with the estimated P2.89 per liter increase in its price.

On power, the DOE estimated that the imposition of a full 12 percent VAT on independent power producers would jack up the power rates on end-users users by an average of 62.54 per kWh nationwide.

Households in the Manila Electric Co. franchise area will fork out an additional 66.11 centavos per kWh with the 12 percent VAT while those in the Visayas would pay 64.37 centavos per kWh more and Mindanao 51.16 per kWh more.

The DOE noted that these estimates were based on assumptions that IPPs would pass on the entire VAT to consumers and that they have the same operating costs as the National Power Corp.

Gov't seeks WB loan program to pay off debt

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE government plans to ask the World Bank for a loan program that will help it arrest its ballooning debt, and allow it to free some of its limited budget to fund vital expenditures such as infrastructure projects and social services.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima explained that under the proposed loan program, the World Bank would provide credit to the Philippines to pay off its maturing obligations from commercial lenders. Since the World Bank offers a much lower interest rate than commercial lenders, the country would be able to generate savings, he added.

The savings would enable the government to become more flexible in managing its constricted budget.

The savings can be used to increase funds for infrastructure or basic services, he said.

But Purisima said that to convince the World Bank to come up with a loan program for the Philippines, the government should first show proof that it was serious and capable of addressing its fiscal problem.

"We should send the right signal and, to do that, we should set goals that are achievable and fulfill them," Purisima said in a speech before members of the Financial Executives of the Philippines during a meeting on Wednesday.

The finance chief said that the Department of Finance would work on the reduction of the ratio between the consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) and the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The CPSD—the combined deficits of the national government, state-owned companies and local government units—stood at P263 billion last year. The figure was equivalent to 5.4 percent of the GDP in 2004.

The DOF hopes to reduce the CPSD-to-GDP ratio by 2.5 percent.

Purisima said that should the government achieve the goal, the DOF would then ask the World Bank to provide the Philippines with what he called the "Fiscal Reform Program."

He said the DOF has first raised the proposal with the World Bank, and with other multilateral lenders, during the recent Philippine Development Forum.

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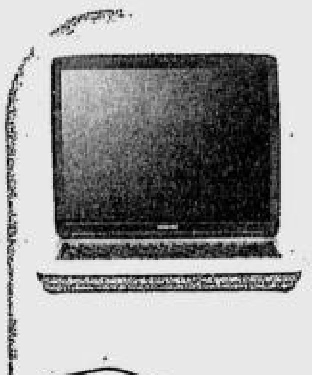

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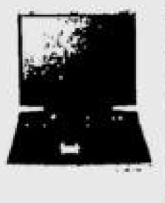

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ING bearing on BIR boss

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DEPUTY Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares was fired by the ING Barings Bank in 2000. Now, she is about to forever lose her bank-supplied BMW convertible coupe, as well.

Acting on a replevin case filed by the Dutch bank, Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Oscar Pimentel has ordered the seizure of the 1996 BMW 318 company car that ING had been trying to take back from Henares since her bitterly contested dismissal as head of the Dutch bank's compliance and legal department nearly five years ago.

Henares, who is only a year short of full payment after clocking in four years of installment payments, said she had already turned over the contested car to the sheriff.

Still, she is opposing the bank's court application to auction her car.

With the Bimmer gone, Henares has been reduced to using a Toyota Revo that the BIR assigned her as official vehicle. After her dismissal, Henares bounced back to become a deputy trade and industry secretary under Manuel Roxas II, before being transferred to the BIR.

In addition to the car case, Henares and the Dutch bank are still locked in what is looking like a drawn-out litigation. The lady lawyer won the first round in her illegal dismissal complaint, with labor arbiter Ma. Estrellita Aldas ordering her reinstatement and awarding her full back wages, but lost at the National Labor Relations Commission upon appeal by the bank.

In turn, Henares elevated the case to the Court of Appeals, where it is currently pending.

According to the grapevine, ING offered P10 million to Henares to drop the case altogether, but that the BIR executive still would not budge.

Henares was receiving P2.4 million a year, plus P1.4 million in bonus, when dismissed by the Dutch bank in July 2000 for alleged gross insubordination and insolent behavior. Henares, on the other hand, says she was merely speaking her mind on certain issues she thought the bank could find itself in legally untenable grounds.

The BMW, in the meantime, has been seen parked in the basement car park of Ayala Tower One, where ING has its offices, gathering dust.

Holiday in hell II

THE COPACABANA Apartment Hotel at 264 Edsa Extension in Pasay City wrote to say that the hotel is not the same "Tropicana Copacabana Apartment Hotel" which was reported in this column on Feb. 28 as having been ordered by the Supreme Court to pay restitution to an Australian guest.

"There is another hotel by the name of Tropicana Apartment Hotel located at 1639 Leon Ma. Guerrero St., Manila, which is an entity entirely distinct and separate from Copacabana Apartment Hotel," a hotel spokesman said.

The Supreme Court ordered the "Tropicana Copacabana" to reimburse Maurice McCoughlin $2,000 and Australian $4,500, in addition to more than P1.1 million in damages and litigation costs, after the Australian sued for the 1988 loss of the foreign exchange in his hotel safety deposit box.

It turned out that the hotel executives, upon orders of a female companion of the Australian, opened McCoughlin's safety deposit box when he was away.

Heard through the grapevine

THE RUSTAN'S Group is negotiating to bring in Zara, the popular Spanish clothing chain, with an initial two stores, one in Rockwell and another in Glorietta.

Zara executives have inspected the possible store sites.

* * *

NOTICE to readers: Cocktales will take a Holy Week break and will resume the column on March 28.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Crude oil prices . . .

From page B1

"Still, we think there is enough supply in the market, but even if another 500 (500,000 bpd) means oversupply, we will take the decision. This is our part of sharing the responsibility."

"It's not in our hands, prices are determined by the market," Oil Minister Mohamed al-Hamli of the United Arab Emirates said.

"We'll have to wait a little bit and see what happens. We promised to put more oil on the market if prices go to high."

Libya and Algeria threw their weight behind early supply talks to try and stem oil's relentless rally.

"If prices go higher, everybody would agree," Libyan Oil Minister Fathi Omar bin Shatwan said.

AP, Reuters

Successful IPOs betray RP's negative image

TWO successful Philippine IPOs have helped foreign investors shrug off credit-rating downgrades and fiscal concerns, renewing interest in the country's maligned stock market, analysts said yesterday.

Overall, they said, foreign investors are realizing the Philippines may not be as bad off as the largely negative image the press has depicted.

Manila Water Inc., the water distribution arm of the Ayala group of companies, and SM Investments Corp., holding company for the family of shopping mall tycoon Henry Sy, both had initial public offerings (IPOs) in March.

Both drew strong interest from foreign investors.

Manila Water has since been trading over the counter at P8 compared to its offering price of P6.50, which was 15 times oversubscribed, indicating heavy demand, said Astro del Castillo from the broking house First Grade Holdings.

The company expects to raise $97.8 million by issuing 745.33 million common shares, representing 25 percent of the group.

And brokerage Accord Capital Equities said Manila Water's IPO could raise $60-$80 million and recommends it as a buy, citing high sales growth in the past four years which is expected to continue in coming years.

SM Investments earlier said it expects to raise about P16 billion ($296.2 million) by offering 23 percent of the company to the public.

Accord Capital also recommends a buy for SM Investments, citing the Sy family's 50 years of experience in the retail trade and its plans for expansion in areas outside Metropolitan Manila.

While SM Investments is not as popular as Manila Water, considering its high price of P250 a share, "the demand is still there with institutional and some big players," says Del Castillo.

"It will not be as hot as Manila Water but it will still be a stock to watch out for," Del Castillo added.

He said the success of these IPOs was not surprising as "these two companies are backed by the largest families and conglomerates in the Philippines: the Ayalas and the Sys."

"It's a no-brainer whether to invest or not," he said.

Manila Water is due to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange today while SM Investments will be listed on March 22, and the overall market has been buoyed recently by heavier trading volumes.

Del Castillo said interest in the IPOs showed investors were more optimistic about the Philippines despite downgrades by Moody's and Standard and Poor's earlier this year.

"We're improving," Del Castillo said. "The opportunities are also there. The energy sector, oil and mining, it seems there is a wave of investors really attracted to those sectors."

HSBC Bank has told investors the downgrades were unduly harsh and overlooked positive developments like a strong performance in the telecom sector and the recovery of the property market and the financial sector.

While conceding the government needed to do more to increase revenue, HSBC said there was "little near-term risk of a BOP (balance of payments) crisis" due to strong inflows of remittances from the millions of Filipinos working overseas.

But the success of recent IPOs might also be due to the positive trend of the overall market and not the other way around, said Mark Alan Canizares from investment house Citiseconline.

"The general trend is positive. We started the year on a healthy note and the IPOs are just creating additional interest for investors," he said, adding the downgrades had not impacted on the market and were expected.

"I think it was factored in. The downgrades were expected since last year," Canizares said.

"Given the trading volumes, its just an indicator that sentiment toward the Philippines is still positive," he added.

AFP

Shares close flat

From page B1

They said they expect the market to rebound today as Manila Water boosts volumes and interest but remaining in the background are concerns over record oil prices and the fiscal reform measures to tackle the government's chronic budget deficit problems.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index was up 0.99 points to 2,100.11 after trading between 2,096.49 and 2,104.96. Turnover was 1.15 billion shares worth P926.2 million.

The broader all-shares index fell 2.71 points to 1,218.63.

Losers beat gainers 61 to 22, with 58 stocks ending unchanged.

"Investors have two main concerns-oil and the pending fiscal reform measures. Until these worries settle down, we may see market players largely on the sidelines," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

He said investors were waiting to see whether Congress would pass a bill raising the value-added tax to 12 percent from 10 percent before it adjourns for a three-week Easter break on Friday.

AFP

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Peza approves first LGU-run IT park in Bicol

PILI, Camarines Sur—The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) has approved the application of the provincial government to develop and operate an information technology (IT) park here, the first of its kind in Bicol.

Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. said the park, located within the 136-hectare Capitol Complex in Cadlan, would cater to both foreign and local investors and would provide jobs and computer-based education to local residents.

Villafuerte said the plan included the establishment of an electronics enterprise, starting with an assembly line of telecommunications equipment, computer hardware, design and fabrication.

Park development will immediately roll on this month, he said. A medical transcription business, computer café, gaming center, call center and fast food outlets will be set up.

Villafuerte said the provincial government applied for the IT park development, noting that IT infrastructure facilities were already in place.

The local government unit has been operating the South East Asian Institute of Computer Technology, which has been providing computer-based education to poor students, teachers and government employees since 2003.

"Basic facilities [have] already [been] built, like the administration building, library, laboratory rooms, communication tower with disc antenna capable of satellite communications, and emergency generators that can provide the whole complex with power," Villafuerte said.

He said broadband service with fixed fiber optic cables as transmission line would be tapped to centralize control for the telecommunication and electrical systems.

IT park investors would be given incentives, as well as land tenure security, the governor said. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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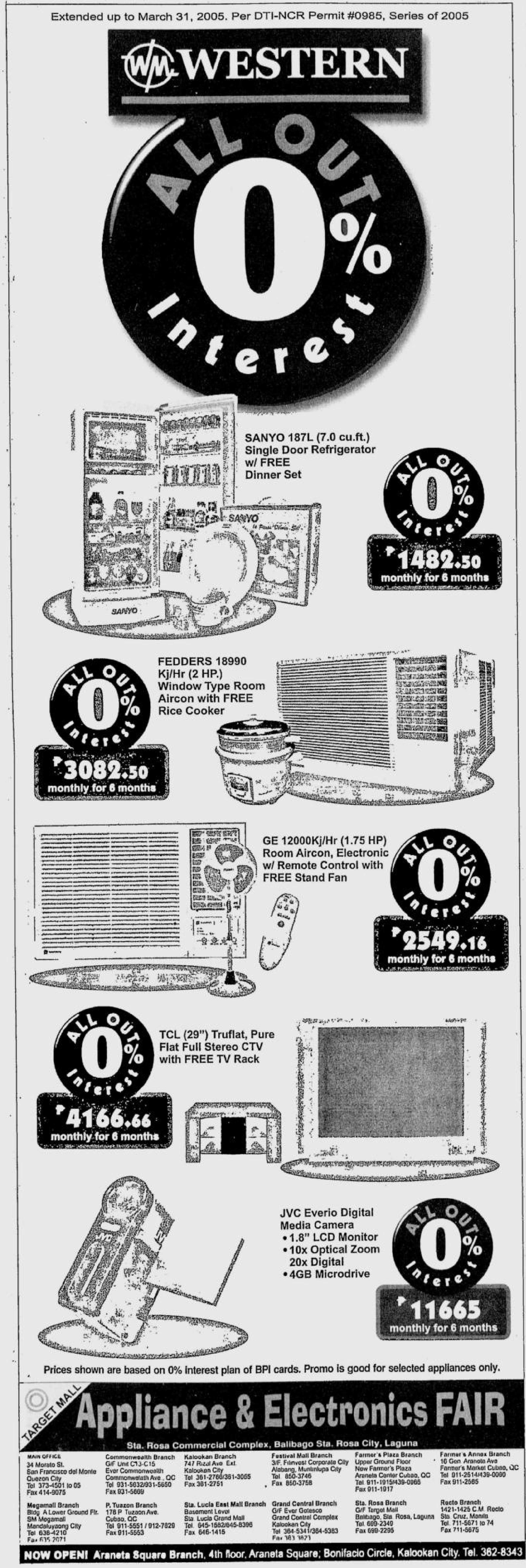
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SMIC IPO to raise ₱28.7B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS Corp. (SMIC) of retail magnate Henry Sy expects to raise P28.75 billion ($530 million) from the initial offering of its shares to the public.

SMIC said in a statement that it was offering 115 million of its shares at P250 each.

The shares will be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange on March 22.

The total shares to be offered make up about 21 percent of the company's total outstanding shares.

Sources familiar with the deal told INQUIRER that the roadshow to drum up foreign interest in the shares was well attended and that the offer was four times oversubscribed.

SMIC recently concluded a two -week roadshow, that took its officials to 16 cities in Asia, Europe and the United States.

SMIC's IPO is touted to be the biggest public offering since Petron Corp. issued shares in 1996.

The Petron IPO brought in P18 billion in proceeds.

SMIC has interests in commercial centers through mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc., retail, wholesale and merchandising through department store operations, financial services and banking through Banco de Oro Universal Bank, and real estate development and tourism.

Tech firm to invest in depot

PUBLICLY-LISTED Island Information & Technology Inc. plans to diversify into the container yard depot industry.

IITI said in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission that there was great potential in the CYD industry due to the projected increase in trading activity.

CYDs are storage facilities where imported goods brought in by shipping companies are temporarily kept.

The cargo is then picked by customs brokers, who deliver the goods to the importer.

. IITI said the growth in trading activity will require the support of shipping and cargo management services.

Island will use the P122 million it raised from its recent stock rights offer to bankroll its investment.

IITI also plans to be the leading provider of cargo management services through the management and operation of CYDs.

It plans to put up its first CYD in a two hectare lot in Manila Harbour Center near the Manila Port Area. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 17, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30	29.5	30	993,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	58	57	58	382,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49	50	126,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.79	0.8	14,390,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	23,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	37	37	494,700
Philippine National Bank	32	41.5	32	38.5	1,099,400
Phil. Savings Bank	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	1,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	52,000
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	30.5	31	204,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	32.5	32.5	31	31	57,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	260	260	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	2540	2545	2540	2545	460
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.2	2.24	326,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	152	150	152	210
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1715	1715	1715	1715	40
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	16.5	16.75	266,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.32	3,853,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	905	910	905	905	65,670
Ipeople Inc.	5	5	5	5	214,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	4,900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.55	3.6	6,959,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1480	1485	1465	1465	134,620
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	1,040,000
Philweb Corp.	0.022	0.023	0.021	0.022	89,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	67,100
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30.5	29.5	30	2,824,200
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.05	1,151,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.54	581,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	21,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	5,010,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	390,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	110,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4	4	3.85	3.9	3,298,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.8	162,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28.5	27	27.5	278,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	90,000
RFM Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	600,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	20,100
San Miguel Corp. B	83	83.5	83	83	235,800
Universal Robina Corp.	12	12	12	12	28,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	120,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	300,000
Ayala Corp.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	3,118,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	430,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	646,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.055	55,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.22	2,458,000
APC Group Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.46	1,370,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	164,000,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	6,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	60,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	26	26.5	25.5	25.5	77,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	1,500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.18	1.22	16,270,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1	1	1	1	400,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.26	0.26	6,650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	3.85	3.9	10,996,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	4,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	234,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	56,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	1,397,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.26	610,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.12	0.12	13,420,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.86	575,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	959,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	160,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.62	1.64	1,059,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	50,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.52	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.56	36,110,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.35	0.35	410,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	55,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	950,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	232,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	220,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.05	3.8	3.8	97,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	2,250,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.195	0.2	390,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	1,890,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.69	0.69	0.64	0.66	70,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.61	0.75	0.61	0.75	160,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	78,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	3,150,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.48	1.5	7,498,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	1,687,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.6	6,580,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,820,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.25	524,200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	2,713,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	626,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,810,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	7,810,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	6,610,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.84	1.84	2,010,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	2,160,000
Mrc Allied Ind., Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	850,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.22	0.17	0.22	620,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	304,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	2,290,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	190,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.4	1,169,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	126,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.9	592,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	5,370,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.42	3,680,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.018	0.018	66,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	11,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.009	193,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,833,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	2,747,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	43.5	43.5	41.5	42.5	416,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	480,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	3,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	36,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	210,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	26,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	2,930,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.4	870,000

DISCLOSURES

ALASKA Milk Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 10, 9 a.m. at the Mandarin Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City. Only stockholders as of March 7 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EMPIRE East Land Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 14, 9 a.m. at the Eastwood City Information Centre, Eastwood City Walk, Quezon City. Stockholders as of April 7 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ARANETA Properties Inc. sold its Manticao Smelter Plant to Platinum Group Metals Corp.

* * *

TRANS-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. declared a P0.04 per share cash dividend and another P0.04 per share special cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of March 30.

* * *

TEODORICO Jose Delfin resigned as assistant corporate secretary and corporate information officer of East Asia Power Resources Corp. Neko Lyree Cruz was designated acting corporate information officer until a permanent replacement is named.

* * *

EEI Corp. announced the resignation of the following directors: Helen Dee, Susanne Santos and Porfirio de Guzman Jr. Elected to replace them were Roberto de Ocampo, Wilfrido Sanchez and Ernesto de Castro. Marcelo Dy was elected director to replace Juan Santos who resigned after being appointed Trade and Industry Secretary. Clarito Ilustre was elected vice president and general manager of the construction division.

* * *

CEBU Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to April 26, 11 a.m. at the City Sports Club Cebu.

* * *

CEBU Property Ventures & Development Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to April 26, 3 p.m. at the City Sports Club Cebu. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Organic, natural products exports seen at $450M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is working on the development of the country's organic and natural products exports, earnings from which are seen to grow tenfold to $450 million this year.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), the country shipped out $45.9 million worth of organic products in the first 10 months of 2004.

Citem officials said in a press briefing yesterday the agency was optimistic that local producers could corner a bigger chunk of the $21-billion-a-year global market as the government was speeding up the certification of the products and trade promotion efforts.

The global market is expected to grow to $100 billion in 2008, industry data show.

Last year, exports of organic products included muscovado sugar, green balangon (bananas), banana chips, coconut cooking oil, dessicated coconut, coconut chips, virgin coconut oil and dried banaba leaves.

Major export destinations were Japan, Europe, United States, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Korea and China.

Citem said the consumers' growing awareness on healthier eating habits, food safety and the ongoing debate on genetically modified organisms were nurturing the growing demand for organic food.

Virgin coconut oil, muscovado sugar and organic rice are expected to boost exports to the United States, where imports of organic food and beverages are seen to be growing to $20 billion a year.

"We hope that more producers would shift to organic farming while existing organic food producers get into the export business because (of the opportunities that abound)," Citem executive director Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said.

The government's agenda for the sector includes shifting to organic agricultural practices; strengthening the certification of organic products; sustaining the local and international market; and increasing areas of plantation.

Citem said agricultural lands devoted to organic farming cover a total area of 11.8 million hectares or just 0.02 percent of the total. This is expected to rise to one percent of the total by 2010.

Men's role in the women's movement

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

AS WE celebrate Women's month this March, it is necessary that we understand the men's role in the Women's Movement. Related to agriculture, we quote this Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statement: "Given women's crucial roles in and contributions to food security, any efforts to reduce food security worldwide must take into consideration the factors and constraints affecting women's ability to carry out these roles and make these contributions, with a view to removing the constraints and enhancing women's capacities."

In the Philippines, one of these constraints is the male farmer's resistance to allowing the female farmer to achieve her full potential. This is because of traditional gender stereotyping.

Sex and gender

The concept of gender has not been well defined and well understood. The definition of gender was even the subject of a United Nations' special session in connection with the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, which I had the privilege to attend.

Gender is often confused with sex. Sex generally refers to biology and anatomy. By contrast, gender refers to a set of qualities and behaviors expected from a female or male by society.

As EngenderHealth states: "Gender roles are learned and can be affected by factors such as education and economics. They vary widely within and among cultures. While an individual's sex does not change, gender roles are socially determined and can evolve over time."

To address this issue, organizations such as the Center for Asia Pacific and Women in Politics (Capwip) and the National Confederation of Cooperatives-Visayas (Victo) conducted seminars in gender sensitivity for women. But when Remmy Rikken of Capwip, executive director Dudz Samson of Victo and Fr. Percy Bacani of the Missionaries for Jesus measured the progress of the seminar participants, they found one obstacle. The men these women interacted with resisted the women's new role. This was because this was not consistent with the male gender stereotyping these men had.

Man talking about men

Thus was born a new seminar: "Men Talking to Men about Men." In this seminar, attended by both urban and rural men, they discovered that men had three main fears and three main status symbols.

According to Father Bacani, the men's three fears revolved around things they felt they had little power to control: feelings, money and death. The three status symbols were power, work and sex.

During the seminar, the men were encouraged to discard the gender stereotypes society expected of them. Instead, they were asked to talk about their true selves and how they really wanted to relate to society.

The participants found this process liberating. In follow-up activities with them, Father Bacani discovered another benefit. Since these men could now be themselves, they were also more open to the women being themselves and thus fulfill their full potential. And vice versa.

Farmers compared to non-farmers

Father Bacani said there was a difference between male farmers and non-farmers in this area: "The male farmers tend to be more traditional and rigid. Before the seminar, they resist their women partners taking on new gender roles that threaten their own male gender stereotypes. However, after the seminar, the farmers show a greater change than their rural counterparts because they have more time in the rural setting to discuss these issues with the women."

The result is that both the men and women farmers are able to discard the dysfunctional gender stereotypes, fulfill their own respective potentials, and emerge more satisfied and happier with their new-found gender self-definitions.

When it comes to men talking to men, Samson observes: "Because of the more quiet settings in the rural areas, male farmers have a greater opportunity to talk among themselves, especially during their drinking sessions." There is a saying in the Visayan rural areas: "*bisag walay pulutan, basta na ay sumsuman* (even if there is nothing to eat, as long as there is opportunity to talk)." Samson says that the male seminar participants have found themselves talking about their newfound gender self definitions during these drinking sessions. They have discovered that their male friends enthusiastically embrace this idea.

Conclusion

In a book "The Hazards of Being Male" Herb Goldberg states: "The male has paid a heavy price for his masculine 'privilege' and 'power.' He is out of touch with his emotions and his body. Only a new way of perceiving himself can unlock him from old, disruptive patterns and enrich his life."

In the Philippine rural countryside, the traditional male gender stereotyping has impacted not only the men but also affected the full development of the women in their critical role of promoting agricultural development.

During this Women's month of March, and inspired by the success demonstrated by the efforts of Rikken, Samson and Father Bacani, it is suggested that both government and private sector organizations launch more aggressive initiatives to promote men's gender awareness. In so doing, the men's role in the women's movement will be transformed from possible resistance to proactive complementation and support, especially in the agricultural sector.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

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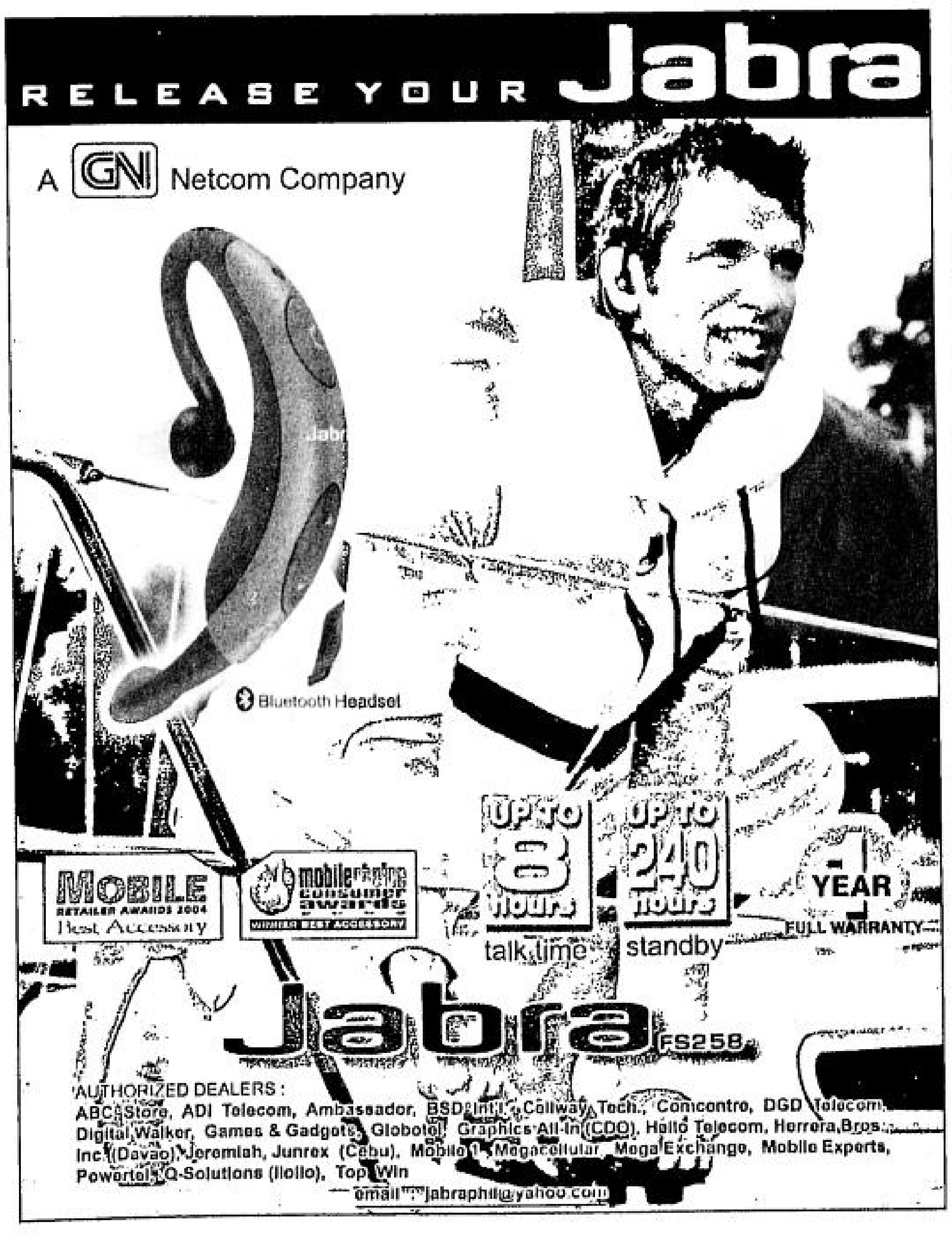

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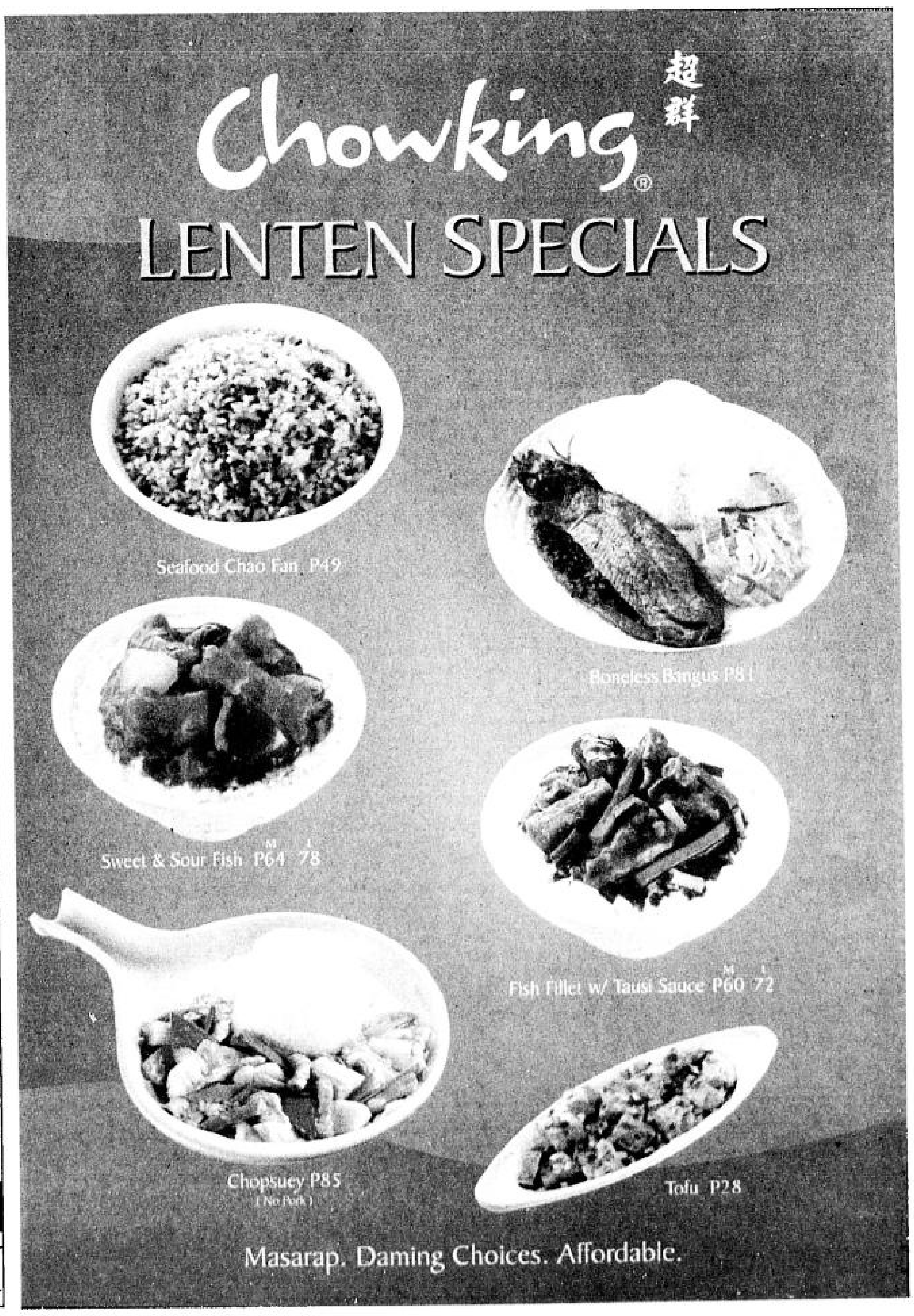

PLDT group in talks with US, Singapore carriers for tie-ups

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. and its wireless subsidiaries are in serious talks with Singaporean and North American carriers for possible tie-ups.

Alfredo Panlilio, president of PLDT Global, said the arrangements being worked out would allow PLDT to operate virtual wireless networks in countries hosting big Filipino communities.

Panlilio named the two Singaporean carriers the PLDT group was negotiating with as M1 and Starhub.

He said that by June or July, PLDT and Smart Communications Inc. would start running a mobile virtual network operation or MVNO in Singapore.

He said a similar offering would be launched in North America shortly after Singapore.

In September 2004, PLDT launched 1528 Smart in Hong Kong in partnership with CSL, a telecom company based in the Crown Colony. There are 180,000 Filipinos in Hong Kong.

PANGILINAN

With 1528 Smart, Filipinos in Hong Kong are able to text their family in the Philippines for only 50 HK cents per message sent, much lower than the 80 HK cents to HK$1 per message charged by other carriers.

The tie-ups with foreign carriers would allow PLDT and Smart to enhance its remittance-through-text service, offer cheaper text messaging, voice call and other homegrown innovative products to Filipinos abroad.

The PLDT group wants to cash-in on about 8 million Filipinos working overseas who are sending about $8 billion to their families in the Philippines yearly.

There are about 400,000 Filipinos in North America and about 85,000 in Singapore.

Smart has to forge partnerships with carriers in the host countries because it needs to pass through the existing networks in those areas to deliver its services.

" We hope to launch the service in Singapore by June or July." Panlilio said.

There are three big players in that country, such as Singapore Telecom, M1 and Starhub.

Singapore Telecom is the major shareholder of PLDT's fiercest rival Globe Telecom.

"We will also launch 1528 in North America shortly after Singapore. We are learning from the HK model. There, we bought everything, so there is a significant investment in HK. In Singapore, we will do some outsourcing," said the head of PLDT Global.

Panlilio said PLDT Global made between P93 million and P117 million a month due largely to the sale of Smart products and services in Hong Kong. He said Smart's 1528 already had 25,000 subscribers.

"In a span of six months since we launched 1528, we already cornered 14 percent of the market. By the end of the year, we will hit 50 percent of the market," the official told reporters.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan earlier said the group was also looking at penetrating the Middle East market where millions of Filipinos work.

The problem with the Middle East market, according to the PLDT chair, is the difficulty in forging partnership with companies there which are mostly, if not all, owned by the royal family.

Pangilinan said the 8 million Filipinos working overseas would be a big market for the integrated services of the PLDT group's fixed-line and international gateway, wireless and data operations.

Japan firm plans health center in Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Picking up the initiative to promote this former American naval base as tourist haven, a medical hub and a retirement village, Sen. Richard Gordon recently brought here a medical team from Japan that planned to put up its own health center.

"I have never stopped believing in Subic Bay," said Gordon, a former tourism secretary, as he toured members of the Tokushukai Medical Group, one of the world's largest chain of private health institutions.

"So I thought of bringing them here as a continuation of the effort that we have been talking about for the last four years. We are trying to help them out and hopefully we get something done," he said.

Tokushukai is the largest medical services provider in Japan, and has 217 medical facilities worldwide, including 57 general hospitals. It plans to put up a 1,000-bed, $100-million hospital, which will be called the Benigno Aquino Memorial Hospital.

Gordon said they had already considered a plan to train Filipino nurses in Japanese hospitals so they could be exposed to Japanese "style" of medical procedures.

"They can have special care and special procedures made here. Japanese and Filipino doctors have cooperated to address this particular desire to have a relatively inexpensive but certainly high end medical facilities here," he said.

He said Dr. Takao Suzuki, president and chief executive officer of the Tokushukai Medical Group, was optimistic about the plan.

"Subic can very well accommodate Tokushukai. The presence of an airport and a seaport can be used to bring in medical equipment and goods as well as patients from all over the Asian region," Gordon said.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Alfredo Antonio said hosting a central medical center would benefit nearby provinces like Bataan, Zambales and even Pampanga. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CONSISTENCY

Enforcement of telco rules urged

AS COMPETITION among the country's mobile phone companies gets tougher, particularly with their unlimited call-and-text offerings, government regulators are urged to ensure the strict enforcement of consistent performance standards among the players.

Globe Telecom made this call as the National Telecommunications Commission holds hearings on the complaints filed by the firm's subsidiary, Innove Communications, and and Smart/PLDT against Sun Cellular operator Digital Mobile (Digitel).

Innove, the carrier of the Touch Mobile (TM) brand, had filed a case with the NTC against Digitel, citing the substandard performance of Sun's network when measured against established NTC guidelines. This was triggered by Sun's 24/7 unlimited call-and-text service, which allegedly had adversely affected the network's performance.

At the NTC hearing on March 7, Innove presented as evidence the results of a quarterly benchmarking drive test, a regular monitoring of network quality. The report showed that Sun's network performance had failed to meet the specified standards since the launch of the 24/7 service.

In the drive test conducted by Globe last January, Sun Cellular had an average drop call rate (DCR) of 5.09 percent and a 35.4 percent grade of service (GOS) over a testing period of 10 days.

Official NTC standards provide an allowable DCR of 5 percent and a GOS of 7 percent. The DCR refers to the percentage of calls that are irregularly terminated out of the total number of calls made during the period covered, while the GOS measures the probability that a call will fail to connect at the first attempt during a peak traffic period.

With this report, Globe is calling for the consistent enforcement of the NTC standards in order to ensure fair play among telcos and provide better service to consumers.

"There should not be one standard for the incumbents and a lower standard for Sun," said Froilan Castelo, Globe Telecom head for regulatory affairs.

"In the interest of the consumers, Globe is appealing to the NTC to strictly implement the existing industry standards. This will ensure that the public is getting the quality service they deserve, and which Globe has committed to provide by complying with the said standards."

Castelo also addressed the legal issues raised by Digitel in its response to the complaint filed by Innove. On the issue that Innove has no legal personality as an enfranchised wireless carrier, Castelo said Innove was the former Islacom. The change of name was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Telcos blame NTC for price war

From page B1

mon complaint about Sun Cellular's unlimited plan). Quevedo claimed that a network operator would queue the unlimited calls and therefore prevent congestion.

But a Smart official pointed out that all networks, no matter how wide and extensive, will always prove vulnerable to traffic congestion. "At 5 pm, *kahit gaano kaganda ang* network *mo, siguradong magta*-traffic. This week, we shall see how it turns out," the official said.

Quevedo said the NTC should have acted on the issue before all hell had broken loose. "The NTC is not doing its role as a regulator of the industry. Smart has no choice but to join the price war because it has to protect its market share. *Pag nagkagulo* [When the problem worsens], what will the NTC do?" the lawyer asked.

Failed performance?

Through their smaller units Pilipino Telephone Corp. and Innove Communications Inc., Smart and Globe have asked the NTC to stop Sun Cellular's 24/7 plan. Their strongest argument: Sun Cellular is failing the performance standards the NTC set in 2002.

An NTC circular laid out two specific standards for mobile providers; one is grade of service as measured by successful first call attempts and the other is a benchmark on dropped calls.

The order required a 93-percent grade of service and a 95-percent dropped calls index. This means that no more than seven out of every 100 connection attempts should fail on the first try while no more than five out of every 100 calls should be terminated by the network.

The two giant telcos conducted their own dry tests. According to Globe, its test found that 35.4 out of every 100 Sun Cellular calls during a 14-hour average failed to connect, or five times the limit. On the dropped call benchmark, however, the Sun network reportedly terminated only 5.09 out of every 100 calls.

But from 8 to 9 p.m., a staggering 87 out of every 100 Sun Cellular calls reportedly did not connect successfully, while dropped calls rose to 14.29.

Piltel's tests showed similar results. Quevedo claimed that Sun Cellular automatically cuts off its unlimited calls after 15 minutes, which should raise the network's dropped calls numbers significantly.

Heavy congestion

But Smart and Globe seemed to have forgotten that it was only a couple of years ago when their networks also suffered heavy congestion, said William Pamintuan, senior vice president of Digitel Telecommunications Phils. Inc.. Sun Cellular is the trade name of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc., a unit of Digitel.

The 2002 NTC circular was released precisely to restore order following years of traffic congestion and network failures of the two major players, he said. Now the NTC can no longer apply the service standards it had set earlier because conditions had changed.

Edgardo Cabarios, head of the NTC's common carrier division, said that the network problem started in the late 1990s, when text messaging became a full-blown phenomenon. By the middle of 2000, the NTC had ordered phone companies to bill by the six-second pulse instead of rounding off call charges to the next minute because more and more subscribers complained of dropped calls. (Cabarios said the level of dropped calls by 2001 far exceeded 5 percent.)

But the major players contested the order before the court and obtained an injunction. The NTC never had the chance to implement the order.

"They cannot do an apple-to-apple comparison now because a lot of things have changed. The leading players, they went through the same growing pains. What we just want is to be given time to expand our network," said Pamintuan.

Paradigm shift

The competition has actually got it backwards, Sun Cellular has countered. Its radical pricing strategy is actually giving birth to a different level of competition in the industry.

And if the two leading telcos have taken credit for growing the industry and then exacting a price for such growth, the new player said the industry should cut it some slack, too, because it has introduced a new "paradigm" of competition.

Pamintuan said there should be different standards now for the telecom industry depending on what the carriers were charging. He reached for an analogy from the airline industry.

"You cannot charge business class for economy seats. But when you paid economy, don't expect first-class service," he said, by way of explanation. (The Gokongwei family owns an airline, Cebu Pacific.)

Smart and Globe have naturally opposed Digitel's logic. They said one rule must apply to all and insisted that the regulator not bend the rule to accommodate other players.

But it does seem as if the NTC is receptive to the idea of different levels of standards.

Solis said he was worried about the consequences of an unchecked price war, when players do as they please, without regard for the consequences of their actions. But seeing the marketplace change with the advent of unlimited pricing, Solis said the NTC would consult with experts on ways to create an enabling environment for the so-called buffet type of competition to continue to thrive.

He said, for instance, that the NTC could set a specific period during which eat-all-you-can prices apply, perhaps during off-peak hours.

Whatever the next steps, the regulator cannot allow anarchy to rule the industry, Solis said. "At the end of the day, we shall take into account what is good for consumers."

DOE to wrap up . . .

From page B2

At today's diesel price range of between P24.75 and P25.75 a liter, the agreed CNG price of P14.52 per normal cubic meter is more than P10 cheaper.

The low CNG price is meant to encourage bus operators to use CNG-fueled buses in their operations. This is not only seen to ease the country's dependence on imported oil, but it may also reduce emissions that are harmful to the environment.

Abaya said the Suhkin Energy investment here would further up the ante on CNG use, particularly for the public transport sector, as it would give a cheaper alternative to diesel fuel.

This would also be in keeping with the government's strategy to develop the natural gas industry.

Apart from the low price of CNG, the government has also put in place some incentive packages as well as some financing options to help entice investors to go into the CNG business.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez had earlier said that government financial institutions, like the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Land Bank of the Philippines and the PhilExim Bank, had some "attractive financing packages" for transport operators who would want to convert their fleets to CNG-powered vehicles.

Some incentives had also been put in place, he said, including income tax holidays from the Board of Investments, a low one-percent tariff on imported CNG motor vehicles and natural gas vehicle (NGV)-related equipment, and preferential franchises for CNG buses from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

The 4th Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition:
RALLYING INSTITUTIONS FOR EDUCATION

Partnerships rule! With a big difference and what a heart through the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition (RMSEC) in the Philippines. Now on its 4th cycle, the competition has become fertile ground for cooperation among corporations and institutions bouyed by opportunities for promoting inspiring role models for the youth.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) carries out RMSEC with the cooperation of Samsung Electronics Philippines, whose state of the art products, will go to eight regional winners (four secondary and four college) and their schools. Two grand prizes of P100,000 each from RMAF await the national winners, one from each level.

Second time partners **Nestle Philippines** and **Shoemart** are joined by new partners **Knowledge Channel, National Bookstore** and **Anvil Publishing Inc** – all invariably extending facilities, time, programs, resources and expertise to whip up attention and commitment from youths across the country to join. **SM Malls** nationwide feature a roving exhibition -- RMSEC@SM -- to give teachers, parents, students, including friends and relatives, a preview on the winning essays during the competition's first four years, and the awardees who provide inspiration to the young essay writers.

Robinsons Malls, for the second straight year, will display RMSEC posters nationwide; in Metro Manila, LRT stations and MRT stations will carry these as well.

INTEL Philippines through its INTEL Teach training project with the **Department of Education (DEPED)** will include RMSEC among the programs for participating teachers, with DEPED endorsing the competition to all public and private high schools. RMSEC has also been presented at important educational congresses, among these: **DEPED's National Schools Press Conference**, and the **Ateneo Consortium for English Language Training (ACELT)**.

RMSEC reaches out to teachers organizations and educational associations: the **Coordinating Council of Private Education Association (COCOPEA)**, the **Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP)**, the **Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU)**, the **Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAPSCU)**, the **Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities (ACSCU)**, the **Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)**, the **Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC)**, and the **Council of Department Chairpersons for English (CDCE) / College English Teachers Association (CETA)**. RMAF, as it has done last year, requests the **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** to endorse RMSEC to college students to as it celebrates the Higher Education Week in May.

All join hands with the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation as partners and sponsors of the 4th Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition. They call out to high school and college students to read up and research on the Magsaysay Awardees to write an essay on the theme, **"Inspiring Me To Make A Difference: Personal Lessons From A Magsaysay Awardee."**

Our corporate and institutional partners, among them the **National Youth Commission (NYC)**, the **UNESCO Youth Clubs/Associated Schools Project Network**, the **Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC)**, recognize the long term benefits of investing in the future of the coming generations. These dynamic institutions continue the late President's call to the youth to be "today's useful citizens and tomorrow's leaders".

The RMSEC multi-partnership exposes the youth to appropriate role models, such as the Magsaysay awardees, thus paving a path for the young to grow in social awareness and to embrace the values of personal integrity and selfless service to others. The Magsaysay awardees are an inspirational read, reflecting the life of dignity and service long associated with the late third president. Teachers have a critical role: they encourage students to research and write on the awardees. The experience offers a positive and lasting impact for youths searching for role models toward a future guided by values and ideas that Magsaysay Awardees personify. As English is the language of the competition, RMSEC is a vehicle for honing the students' facility in it.

There are many ways for students to prepare for RMSEC: they may surf the Foundation website – www.rmaf.org.ph, visit its Asian Library, or their own school libraries, call 521-3166 to 85, or email essay@rmaf.org.ph.

Entries may be forwarded to the following chairpersons of the Regional Boards of Judges:

NCR	LUZON	VISAYAS	MINDANAO
Dr. Ma. Luz Vilches Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of English, School of Humanities Ateneo de Manila University Loyola Heights 1108, Quezon City T: (632) 426-6120 Email: mvilches@ateneo.edu	**Prof. Elvira S. Balinas** Department of English College of Arts and Science Angeles Univ. Foundation Angeles City, Pampanga T: (045) 888-2663 to 65 loc. 712 Email: levbalinas@hotmail.com	**Dr. Leoncio P. Deriada** 214 San Jose St., Molo, Iloilo City 5000 T: (033) 338-0268 Email: lp_deriada@yahoo.com	**Prof. Christine Godinez-Ortega** College of Arts & Sciences Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology Iligan City T: (063) 221-4050 to 55 local 111 Email: girlebaylan@yahoo.com

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Editor Aries Espinosa

'Uniquely Singapore' sets sails for round-the-world race

THE SINGAPORE Tourism Board and Clipper Ventures PLC recently announced the signing of a sponsorship agreement that will see Singapore joining the competitive line-up of one of the world's most prestigious international yachting events, the Clipper 05-06 Round the World Yacht Race.

Singapore is the first Asian city to join the 10-strong international racing fleet, which sets sail from Liverpool, United Kingdom, on Sep. 18. The fleet will sail for 10 months and 35,000 miles to 10 port cities, including Western Australia and Durban in South Africa. The race will come to an end in July 2006 in Liverpool.

Lim Neo Chian, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, said: "We are confident that this race will also profile Singapore to millions of race spectators and potential visitors around the world in a most memorable and unique manner."

Singapore's 68-foot "Uniquely Singapore" yacht will be emblazoned with the destination brand's logo and fly the Singapore flag. There also will be opportunities for Singaporeans to be a part of the crew and become tourism ambassadors on board the "Uniquely Singapore" yacht, bringing a taste of Singapore across five continents to the host port cities that it sails through.

With the newly introduced format of "nation versus nation" for the Clipper 05-06 event, the crew on the "Uniquely Singapore" yacht will pit their skills against an international lineup of teams including Liverpool, Durban and Western Australia.

"Through our local crew members and our hosted festival villages along the seven-leg route, the rest of the world can get a taste of Singapore and will be able to appreciate the sophisticated blend of the best of the modern world and rich cultures that is uniquely Singapore. We will bring a bit of our country, culture and people to every one of the 10 host port cities," Lim added.

On the third stage of the race, in January 2006, the yachts will spend 10 days in Singapore, one of only two Asian stopovers on the route. It will also be the first international race to berth at Sentosa Cove's brand new marina, which will be ready just in time to receive them.

Singapore's involvement in Clipper 05-06 has been secured by the Singapore Tourism Board and Fast Track Sailing, the exclusive global commercial and media partner for the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.

RP TO HOST IAFEI WORLD CONGRESS

Ambassador Philippe J. Lhuillier officially extended an invitation to visit the Philippines to the delegates of the XXXV Iafei World Congress in Florence. He extended the invitation in conjunction with the 36th Iafei World Congress that will be held in Manila from Dec. 4 to 6. The congress marks the second time in 20 years that the Philippines will host the World Congress, the last one being in 1974. The invitation was addressed to the 365 delegates from 22 countries that attended the World Congress meeting last Oct. 11 to 13. Sixteen delegates from the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) represented the country. The International Association of Financial Executives Institute (Iafei) is a Swiss-based, private, non-profit and non-political association consisting of member institutes with a total membership of over 37,000 finance executives worldwide. The XXXV Iafei World Congress has its theme 'Storms are not forever'. Shown is Ambassador Philippe J. Lhuillier with World Congress Delegates.

Omega 3 helps prevent sudden cardiac death

STUDIES show that about half of all deaths from heart disease are sudden and unexpected, regardless of the underlying disease. Half of all deaths due to narrowing of the coronary arteries are sudden, as are half of the deaths due to degeneration of the heart muscle or to cardiac enlargement in patients with high blood pressure.

While deaths from coronary artery disease have fallen, mortality from sudden cardiac death remains the most common cause of death in many countries. Previous heart attack victims have a risk of sudden death, which is four to six times the rate of the general population. The females are not necessarily the stronger sex in relation to sudden death. At older ages, women who have heart attacks are twice as likely as men to die from them within a few weeks.

To prevent sudden cardiac death, one must treat the underlying problems, i.e. coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, smoking and other risk factors.

Over the last 10 years, there is now convincing scientific data showing that omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids in fish oil may have a significant clinical application in the prevention of sudden cardiac death. Heart experts including the American Heart Association (AHA) have now recommended omega-3 in the prevention of heart attack, stroke and sudden cardiac death. It has been suggested that the decreased mortality associated with fish intake may be in part due to a reduction by omega-3 fatty acids of fatal arrhythmias leading to cardiac arrest.

Several clinical trials, including the highly acclaimed Gissi Prevenzione Trial published in the prestigious Lancet medical journal, have shown a consistent effect of omega-3 in reducing the incidence of sudden cardiac death. In the same trials, no significant cardiovascular benefits have been reported with vitamin E.

Omega-3 benefits studied

The benefits of omega-3 fatty acid therapy in cardiac arrhythmias are now the subject of extensive investigation as cardiac arrest is a major cause of death and various antiarrhythmic drugs are harmful for some patients. Aside from its antiarrhythmic effects, the other beneficial effects of omega-3 are: decrease in thrombosis (blood clot formation), which can lead to heart attack and stroke; decrease in triglyceride levels; decrease in growth rate of atherosclerotic plaque; improvement in the overall health of arteries; and slight decrease in the blood pressure.

Epidemiologic and clinical trials have shown that omega-3 fatty acids reduce cardiovascular disease incidence. Large-scale epidemiologic studies suggest that people at risk for coronary heart disease benefit from consuming omega-3 fatty acids. Evidence from prospective secondary prevention studies suggests that taking omega-3 (either as fatty fish or softgel supplements) significantly reduces deaths from heart disease and all causes.

Randomized clinical trials (RCTs) have shown that omega-3 fatty acid supplements can reduce cardiovascular events (death, non-fatal heart attacks, non-fatal strokes). They can also slow the progression of atherosclerosis in coronary patients.

There is now abundant literature that omega-3 helps improve overall health and energy level. Aside from its beneficial effect on heart disease, it can also help prevent cancer, depression and Alzheimer's. There are also scientific data showing its benefits in rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, Raynaud's disease and a host of other diseases. Increasing omega-3 fatty acid intake through foods is preferable. However, patients with coronary artery disease may not be able to get enough omega-3 (about 1 gram per day) by diet alone. These people may discuss with their doctor about taking a supplement to reduce their risk of coronary heart disease. Supplements also could help people with high triglycerides, who need even larger doses (2 to 4 grams per day).

A locally available brand of omega-3 supplement is Omegabloc, which is an over-the-counter food supplement in most Mercury and Watson drug stores nationwide. It comes in 1-gram softgels and is recommended at a dose of 2 to 3 softgel capsules daily. It is manufactured by a leading manufacturer of food supplements in the United States.

DLSU-M launches 2nd Scholarum awards

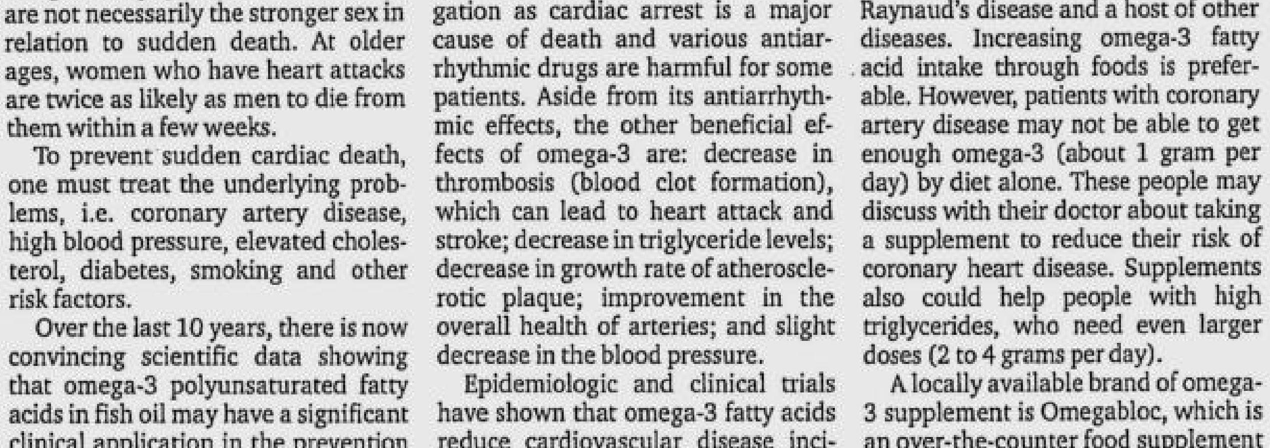
DE LA Salle University-Manila is launching the second Lasallian Scholarum Awards, an annual journalism competition that supports and recognizes outstanding coverage of youth and education.

Sponsored by the marketing communication office, the project aims to generate awareness among various sectors, including government and private organizations to be involved in addressing critical issues confronting the education sector. This endeavor is envisioned to motivate concerned sectors and individuals to contribute towards youth development through various initiatives in education.

The Lasallian Scholarum awards were initially open only to print and broadcast journalists. On its second year, DLSU-Manila opens a new category for unpublished writers. Interested parties may choose from any of the five categories: published feature article on youth and education for nationally circulated publications; published photograph on youth and education for newspaper; aired feature story on youth and education for television; published feature on De La Salle University-Manila (TV or newspaper, and unpublished feature story on youth and education.

Winners for all categories will receive cash prizes and a glass sculpture especially designed and executed by noted artist Ramon Orlina.

Deadline for submission is June 30. For more information, call the marketing communication office at 526-4237, 526-5913, or e-mail calumam@dlsu.edu.ph.



JAGUAR-LAND ROVER INVITATIONAL WINNERS

The 6th Jaguar-Land Rover Golf Invitational was a success after a field of 200 elite Jaguar owners, close associates and guest VIPs from the business, government and media sectors battled it out in the greens for honors and an opportunity to be flown to Scotland to represent the country in the Jaguar World Golf in Gleneagles, Scotland. Emerging triumphant were the duo of Raymond Co and Joey Ticson, who scored a miraculous 51 points. Other big winners during the 5-day tournament were Globe Platinum who bagged the sponsor's championship and Jong Arcano of the Philippine Daily Inquirer dominating the media category. Shown handing over the championship trophy to the winning pair are (from left) Edward Tiu, president of Sta. Elena Country Club, Wellington Soong, chair and president of Jaguar-Land Rover Philippines, Marc Soong, executive director of Jaguar Land Rover and the champion team composed of Raymond Co and Joey Ticson. The 6th Jaguar-Land Rover Golf Invitational is sponsored by MAA Insurance, KLM-Air France, Lucerne Jewelers and Gerald, Genta & Daniel, Store Specialists (Lacoste), Petron Corp, Globe Platinum, Philippine Allied Enterprises/Bridgestone, Intercontinental Hotel, MAA General Insurance Philippines, Sony Philippines, Maybank, Pepsi Cola, EXO Armoring, Ten Knots Development Corp/El Nido Resorts, Ferrari-Maseratti Philippines, Schering-Plough Corp, Diageo Philippines, Unilever Philippines, Bose, and Leisurecrafts Asia Inc.

Bits Clips

Veggies for healthy living

FLAVIER

DOCTOR and Sen. Juan Flavier, author of the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (Tama), former Department of Health Secretary and advocate on the use of Philippine herbs and vegetables for healthy living, will be the guest speaker in the launching of the Philippine Herbal Health Forum on March 18. The topic "Sakit? Halamang gamot, Natural na sagot!" will be discussed together with representatives from the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (Pitahc) and the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) at the PG Tower, Diliman, Quezon City. The forum aims to uplift the Philippine herbal industry by providing updates and information about herbal health care. A feature on how to make an herbal dish garden will be explored during the event. For details, call the secretariat at 926-3252 or 0920-4359272.

'Hats off to Class 2005'

EDSA Shangri-La salutes the graduate with top-of-the-class cuisine from March 15 to 31. The graduate dines free when accompanied by a group of 10 guests availing themselves of the special lunch and dinner buffets and set menus. Garden Café offers an extensive lunch and dinner buffet of Asian and Continental favorites with action stations such as prime rib carvery, a salad and dessert bar, and more. At Paparazzi, the resident Italian chef prepares a 3-course dinner with a choice of main course. Celebrate with Summer Palace's festive set lunch and dinner of Cantonese dishes. Then have your fill of authentic Japanese dishes at the lunch buffet of Nishiki on March 20 and 27. For inquiries, call 634-7373 or 633-888 extensions 2738 and 2739.

Call center job fair

FOR THE first time in the history of a job market, an event dedicated exclusively for the recruitment and selection of call center and outsourcing professionals would be held on March 19 and 20 at the Expo Trade Hall of Festival Supermall Alabang. Ready to accommodate more than 10,000 applicants, this job fair is envisioned to be the biggest recruitment event in the south, which offers outright placement, talent and skills matching and special assistance for applicants in resume writing, oral proficiency, dressing up that you-are-hired way and a small briefing on what to expect from working in a call center environment. Recruitment and selection time if from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-3482 or 825-0804.

Share power of a wish

MAKE-A-WISH Foundation invites everyone to share the power of a wish and attend the general assembly for new volunteers on March 19, 2 p.m. at Coco Cabana in Kalayaan Avenue, Makati. In the general assembly, new volunteers will learn more about the foundation, how to interact with the wish kid and of course planning and organizing their first wish grants. Since 1999, MAWF Philippines has been granting wishes to children 3 to 18 years old with life-threatening illnesses in the Philippines, and it has just recently granted its 500th wish, making the Philippines among the top wish granting countries in the world. Interested parties can call Grace Ty at 840-1553 or e-mail grace4mawf@gmail.com.

'Robots' mania

KELLOGG'S Breakfast Cereals and Warner Brothers bring Robots Mania. Robots Mania started during the advance screening of "Robots" March 12 at the Glorietta 4, Cinema 6. Attendees were composed of winners of radio promotions of Jam 88.3 and Magic 89.9, and the event was hosted by Studio 23's Drew Arellano. The Mania continues after the movie when kids can collect Robots Toys every time they purchase a box of Kellogg's Breakfast Cereals. Kids can enjoy the limited edition of Robots watches when they buy at least three regular packs of Kellogg's. Redemption is from March 18 to 20 at all leading supermarkets.

2 Makiling sopranos

GRADUATING students Kara Lenn Dizon and Christina Bojocan, sopranos and students of professor Irma Potenciano, formally close the month-long focus on graduating students from the Philippine High School for the Arts in "Paco Park Presents" this Friday, March 18 at 6 p.m. Thea Perez is program host. "Paco Park Presents" is a public service project of the National Parks Development Committee. It is regularly aired on Channel 4 every Tuesday from 11 p.m. Admission to "Paco Park Presents" is free of charge.

Countdown to Bb Pilipinas

OVER a hundred young women from different parts of the country have now been pared down to just 25 hopeful beauties as the season winds down for the presentation of the Binibining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant 2005. Now celebrating its 42nd year, the Binibining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant 2005 remains the country's most renowned and highly anticipated pageant. Its official candidates present a lineup for the selection of the pageant's three prestigious titles: Bb. Pilipinas World, Bb. Pilipinas International, and Bb. Pilipinas Universe. This year, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, a special award and title of Bb. Pilipinas Ms. Tourism will be awarded the deserving contestant. The pageant will be held on March 19 at the Araneta Coliseum.

DLS-CSB diploma programs

THE SCHOOL of Professional and Continuing Education (SPaCE) of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) is currently offering 11 diploma programs to professionals. The 10 programs have modules that will start on March 19. SPaCE also offers short courses in Painting, Sports Coaching and Project Management. DLS-CSB created SPaCE to provide a link between the academe and the business world. Classes are held every Saturday from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the DLS-CSB Angelo King International Center on Estrada corner Arellano Streets, Manila. Interested participants can call SpaCE at 400-5425 or 523-8888 locals 341/342 or e-mail space@dls-csb.edu.ph.

'Acoustic Breeze'

YATS International Leisure Philippines Inc (YILP) will kick-off its amphitheater with "Acoustic Breeze" concert on March 19 at the Clearwater Country Club, Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield in Pampanga. "Acoustic Breeze will feature artists U-Turn and Michaelangelo, where they will be performing at the newly constructed amphitheater which is by the pier and its backdrop is a man-made lake," says YILP president Nino Sinco. Sinco adds that people can either sit by the grass or at the ledges. The amphitheater can accommodate up to 400 people. Clearwater Country Club is an exclusive membership club and is operated by Yats International Leisure Philippines, and is located at the Centennial Road, Clark Special Economic Zone, Clark Field in Pampanga. For inquiries, call YILP at 633-1566 or text 0917-5204403.

Ready for marriage?

THE CENTER for Family Ministries offers (Cefam) offers a marriage preparation (Cana) seminar-workshop, a 2-day live-out seminar for couples seriously considering marriage to assess their readiness for married life. It is also recommended for newly married couples adjusting to their marriage. Topics include creative communication, genogram processing, marriage expectation inventory, sexuality, and natural family planning. The 2005 schedule is on March 19 and 20, April 23 and 24, May 21 and 22, June 18 and 19, July 16 and 17, Aug. 20 and 21, Sep. 17 and 18, Oct. 15 and 16, Nov. 19 and 20, and Dec. 10 and 11. The venue for the seminars is at the Cefam, Ateneo de Manila University Campus. For reservations and inquiries, call 426-4289 to 92.

6th Candy Rap Awards

CANDY Magazine turns 6 this March and is celebrating with the most "blinged out" party of the year on March 19, 7 p.m. at the Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1, Makati. Watch your fave stars hit the stage as Candy awards your top picks for fashion, beauty, movies, TV, sports, music and other fun favorites. Join in on the fun with exciting booths, games and prizes. Bring your Candy March 2000 to 2005 anniversary issues and be one of 6 lucky girls to win cash prizes. Candy's 6th anniversary party will be hosted by TV personality Drew Arellano and MTV VJ Mariel Rodriguez. Candy's March anniversary issue is now available at magazine stands and bookstores.

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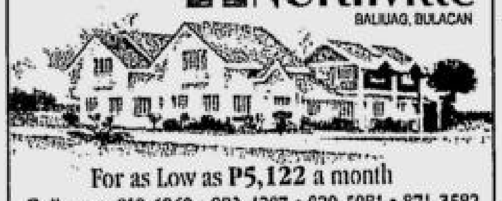

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ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 283 SQM. 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING, MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT OWNER AT 0917-5303665

THE COLUMNS
Studio, 1br. 3M up
25K Reservation. Attractive terms. Viewing by appt. 0917-8997547

MANILA

Nr UST 250sq.m 634-1212

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PASIG

Crisanta Twr Nr Ultra 2br 2tb 1Prk 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

30 SQM CONDO P200K THRU PAG-IBIG 09156974360

5th Av Cubao Direct Buyers 09204122800/0915-4037299

CAYLABNE
Cavite Beach Front
Overlookng Corregidor Island 721-5288/0917-8909051 Gee

EASTWOOD 3BR3TB 4.2M
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
Panoramic View Pool 77m² 09184845443

Eastwood City Resd'l 5 Yr to Pay 0917-5213838

HIGHEST CONDO in QC 1&2br Penthse2.5-7M 09189235216

KAMUNING 3sty t'hse
4.6m Bnew 7242629/4127311

PROJ.2 Marang St. P3.3M
3sty t'hse 7242629/4352186

Sct Tuazon condo 2M 4141709

SIKATUNA
Brand New 3BR
near LRT & QC Hall
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921-5328 • 0916-6496838

TAGUIG

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3M-17M. TERMS AVLBLE.
0917-8997547 Jona

APARTMENT

MANILA

4 DOOR APT CALL MRS UMALI 7355102 7319839

LOT

LAS PINAS

AYALA SOUTHVALE-SONERA 500SQM up 0917-8997547

MANILA

383m² V.Mapa Sta. Mesa P18T/m² 0927-5226353 721-3127

Evangelista Quiapo 850m² 2420618

Padre Rada Cor Asuncion Tondo 167m² Call 242-0618

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ALABANG HILLS
Don Manolo Ave 800 sqm.
P8M Nr. San Beda-Alabang
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Cell: 0919-6745430

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along wide Zabarte Road
10yrs to pay or cash
LS Barilsan 9119637/4373077

Regalado Ave Opp SM Mall Fairview 800m² T242-0618

RESIDENTIAL nr UP Ateneo 204m² to 816m² P8,500/m² 09189235216

SAN JUAN

SAN JUAN Ver St. nr. Aquinas School P18M
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OTHER PROVINCIAL

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MEMORIAL LOT

LOY-MK FLY EST.@2.5M 8366645

LOY-PQ/MKN 8 SLOTS 09164834182

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

SUCAT CALL PM 8201453

BAGUIO

3Hses 3BR2TB kitchen P13T Holy week 9215836/9299163

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Attn: DLSU Students! 21m² Condo Burgandy Taft 851-8175 0920-9120176 Art

MANDALUYONG

Sime Condo 4,500-6500, 13,000 - Call Marlyn 5338536

PASIG

RIVERSIDE EXECUTIVE TOWNHOMES
nr Ever Gotesco Pasig Marife 4213785 / 86 ; 09178356891

QUEZON CITY

Studio Type 30m² Nr F'view & Mrket P4T 7181885 09179665772

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

2BR U/D 1TB STRG WATER w/ parking Call 9117130

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

SAN JUAN

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Cubao wkshop P25T 8974697

MANILA

30T STA ANA, 1,200-5,000 MLA 5642622

ROOM & BOARD

Windsor Inn, Maceda St. Mla nr 7-11 Dimasalang P120only clean title 7118679

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

P. Gil Nr Sta Ana Church Highly Comm'l 200m² FA Call Jo 633-6095 • 633-6167

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

Ortigas 40 145 300m² 4121825

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

90 525i P385 9222569

96's 316i P430 P#111 3741868

FORD

01 Xplorer P778 09194819339

98's XP 4x4 P675 09228877701

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

96 Acord a/t 1own P258 9222569

MITSUBISHI

'05 Adventure GLX Diesel BNew 135T D/P Call 0917-8458587

GLXI 95" WELL MAINTAINED 2727813 Fairview QC

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'02 Mdl Highland Green 55Tkm. M/T 4x2 w/Camper & Carrier, Bed Liner, Leather Seat Cover, All Pwr, Alarm. 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552515

2005 BRAND NEW X-TRAIL 50 DP CEFIRO 73DP URVAN 98DP FRONTIER 73T PATRL 236 SENTRA13 NODOWN ACC EPT TRADEIN 09173823049

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'90 Patrol Turbo Dsl
300T Neg 361-2318 Rush

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04 VXRevo a/t P820 9222569

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CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

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L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

I. *GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) III; SG-28
  A. PIAB - A
  Item Nos. OMBA-GIPO3-13-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-14-2004
  B. PIAB - B
  Item Nos. OMBA-GIPO3-15-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-16-2004
  C. PIAB - C
  Item Nos. OMBA-GIO3-17-2004; OMBA-GIO3-18-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-19-2004

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Five (5) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

II GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) I; SG-26

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) - C

Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-50-1998; OMBA-GIO1-51-1998;

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

III PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BUREAU

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I - Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-69-1998; OMBA-GIO1-70-1998; SG-26

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Five (5) years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Thirty two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position

IV *ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER (AGIO) III; SG-22
  A. FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO) - Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO3-1-2003; OMBA-AGIO3-2-2003; OMBA-AGIO3-3-2004; OMBA-AGIO3-4-2003
  B. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BUREAU (PAB) - Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO3-5-1998; OMBA-AGIO3-10-1998

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: One (1) year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Two (2) years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

V *PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) - B - Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-7-1998; SG-15

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

VI PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION, FMS

*PLANNING ASSISTANT - Item No. OMBA-PLA-1-1998; SG-8

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: One year of Relevant experience; Training: Four hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit applications within twenty (20) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 05-17, series of 2005:

1) AN APPLICATION LETTER STATING THE POSITION/ITEM NUMBER APPLIED FOR;
2) DULY ACCOMPLISHED PERSONAL DATA SHEET (CSC FORM 212);
3) 1"x1" PICTURE (COLORED);
4) BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
5) BAR RATING/CSC CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY;
6) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS;
7) CERTIFICATES OF SEMINARS/TRAININGS ATTENDED;
8) SERVICE RECORDS OF CERTIFICATES FROM PREVIOUS/PRESENT EMPLOYERS STATING THE POSITIONS ASSUMED AND CORRESPONDING ACTUAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IF APPLICABLE);
9) POLICE CLEARANCE;
10) NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) CLEARANCE;
11) CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) CLEARANCE (ONLY FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES);
12) RESULTS OF NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC TEST ADMINISTERED NOT EARLIER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THE POSITION; AND
13) CERTIFICATION UNDER OATH OF THE APPLICANT AS TO ANY RELATIVE(S) OF THE APPLICANT WITHIN THE FOURTH DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY AND AFFINITY, CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.

*This is a republication of the vacancies published on August 3, 2004 and August 23, 2004. Previous application were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

(PDI - March 18, 2005)

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COLOUR MANAGEMENT - GRETAG MACBETH Spectroscan Transmission Colour Measuring Device; X-RITE 361 TX Black White Densitometer
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2% w/out taking car 6567685

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost Now:TERMS-7213124

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DALMTN champline w/papers 09183921360 Las Pinas area

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

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Golden Ret. Pups Ph Champ sire 6830677- 09178540472

ROTTWEILER PUPS Champin 0917-8898239 / 0917-8372007

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LEONARDO S. SARAO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS UNDER DOC #341 PAGE #70 BOOK #4 SERIES OF 2004 OF NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. GENEROSO G. MOLERA NOTARIAL REGISTRY. (PDI MAR. 11,18,27, 2005)

AUCTION SALE

AUCTION SALE
On all unredeemed pledges on Mar. 18, 2005 at Santiago Pawnshop Sta. Maria Bulacan 8:30am -Auctioneer Atty. Jose Sta Ana.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late MARY PIAMONTE CASTILLO DE GUZMAN was settled by her heirs through an extrajudicial portion acknowledged before Notary Public Raymund Mecate of Silang, Cavite as per Doc. #39, Page 8, Book II, Series of 2005. (PDI - March 11, 18 & 24, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that ALORASAN REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Stock Certificate Nos. 005; 031; 042; 046 & 050 representing 725 shares issued in the name of MARIA LINA S. VELAYO were lost as per Affidavit of Loss dated Feb. 24, 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Makati City and entered in his Notarial Registry as Document No. 25, Page No. 06, Book No. 41-A, Series of 2005. (PDI Mar. 4 & 18, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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MALE/FEMALE

Pharmacist 6915513 • 09178512031

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Satellite Communications Project

AFPMP-GHQ-02-002-05

Supply, delivery, installation, commissioning and provisioning of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) system composed of a(1) (VSAT) hub station with a Network Management System (NMS), and eight (8) remote VSAT terminals/stations, that shall be integrated to the existing telephony and date network of the AFP for voice, data, and video applications. This includes the operational and maintenance requirements of the system, training for operators and maintenance personnel, and lease of transponder space.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the AFP Modernization Program Fund, intends to apply the sum of THIRTY FIVE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (PhP35,520,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for Satellite Communications Project (AFPMP-GHQ-02-002-05). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for a VSAT system. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is One Hundred Eighty Calendar Days as per SCC Clause 2. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to eligible bidders as per Clause 5.1 of the ITB. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from **March 21, 2005** until **May 20, 2005**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00). The method of payment will be cash/cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Representatives are required to present a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the prospective Bidder before the issuance of the Bidding Documents and all other transactions in connection therewith.

The AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 4, 2005**, 9:00 a.m. at the Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **May 20, 2005**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in its corresponding amount as prescribe in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **May 23, 2005** at 9:00 a.m. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **REAR ADMIRAL JORGE G NECESITO AFP**
Chairman, AFP Bids and Awards Committee

Armed Forces of the Philippines
Modernization Program Management Office
3/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No. (632) 911-6001 local 6592
Telefax No. (632) 421-2327
E-mail: pld@info.com.ph
Website: www.info.com.ph/~afpmod

(PDI - March 18 & 28, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Dillman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2005-007

Adv. - March 14 & 21, 2005

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	April 12, 2005 10:00 AM Kañao Room	Mechanical Parts for Ticao DPP "MAN"	PB050412-MMER2677	1,397,400.00
II		Governor, Woodward PSG and Grosschopp Speed Motor for Bantayan DPP	PB050412-MMJP2678	1,070,000.00
III	April 12, 2005 2:00 PM Kañao Room	Hauling of Diesel Fuel Oil from Shell Tabangao Depot Batangas to Pulang Lupa DPP, San Jose Occidental Mindoro	PB050302-MMKR2548 (PB2)	4,800,000.00
IV		Laboratory Equipment for Oriental Mindoro Substation & 69 KV	PB050412-MMVB2679	2,375,000.00
V	April 13, 2005 10:00 AM Pahiyas Room	Mechanical S/P of Main Genset, for PB 120 "Daihatsu"	PB050413-MMAM2680	5,126,138.00
VI.		S/P for Main Genset of PB120 "Daihatsu"	PB050413-MMAM2681	2,038,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I-VI	March 29, 2005	2:00 PM	Kañao Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on March 14, 2005, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - March 14 & 18, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8922818

Pharmacist 9332876/2400146

SALES REP (074)-446-8644

SALES REPS w/Salary & Commission 915-1390 to 96

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Contact Ms. Johanna at
359-0232
0928-6110289

WE ARE IN NEED OF:
ACCOUNTING CLERK (F)
MARKETING COORDINATOR (Male)
Contact Ms. JOHANNA at
359-0232 / 0928-6110289

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System. Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 3:00 p.m. on **April 6, 2005** at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the supply and installation of the following:

Internet service for 12 months, 8 mbps x 2 guaranteed bandwith, with government estimated cost of P8,000,000.

The pre-bid conference will be held on **March 21, 2005** at 3:00 p.m., SPMO-SYS, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Bid documents are available starting **March 14, 2005** at the SPMO-SYS. Contact person: Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No. 926-4919, email address: egsabat@up.edu.ph.

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **MARTIN V. GREGORIO**
Vice-President Administration

(PDI - March 11 & 18, 2005)

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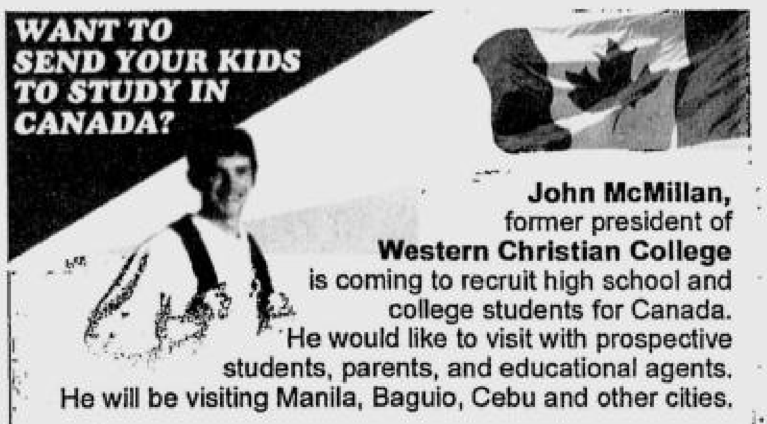
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former president of
Western Christian College
is coming to recruit high school and college students for Canada.
He would like to visit with prospective students, parents, and educational agents.
He will be visiting Manila, Baguio, Cebu and other cities.

For immediate appointment or more information, please contact 032-340-8179 or text 0917-3249380 or email: mpn@mozcom.com
You may also visit **Western Christian College** website at www.westernchristian.ca

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on March 30, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 5, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE REAL ESTATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
METRO MANILA			
AM-JA-031a	Aguirre Ave., cor. Ortigas St., BF Homes, Parañaque City	956 m² two (2) adjoining residential/commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-129671 & T-129672) with school bldg. and imp.	P 18,935,000.00
AM-JA-031b	R. Tirona cor. T. Teodoro St., BF Homes, Parañaque City	787 m² two (2) adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-129673 & T-129674) with bldg. & imp.	P 9,057,000.00
BAG-01	Florence Townhomes IV, 13th Avenue, Brgy. Socorro, Murphy, Quezon City	81.60 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-268283) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,019,100.00
AM-CP-032	1304 Int. M. Naval St., Navotas	338 m² vacant residential/industrial lot (TCT No. C-300082)	P 506,000.00
BATANGAS			
AM-MC-033	San Felix, Sto. Tomas	1,672 m² three (3) adjoining untitled residential lots (TD Nos. 009-1676R, 009-01679R & 009-01678R) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,214,240.00
AM-MC-034	Liza Compound, Poblacion IV, San Roque, Sto. Tomas	325 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-89539) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,139,200.00
BULACAN			
AM-CP-035	Sto. Niño St., Poblacion, Bustos	2,593 m² industrial/residential lot (TCT T-170606) with bldg. & imp.	P 5,828,200.00
CABANATUAN			
	Vista Amor Subd., Bangad	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.	
AM-PY-036	Lot – 27 Blk – 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118071	P 466,600.00
AM-PY-037	19 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118074	P 432,900.00
AM-PY-038	15 1	100 m² TCT No. T-118073	P 432,800.00
AM-PY-039	13 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118072	P 432,800.00
AM-PY-040	11 1	100 m² TCT No. T-118075	P 432,800.00
CAVITE			
AM-ED-041	Sterling Technopark, Bo. Maguyam, Silang	1,500 m² industrial lot (TCT No. 54564) with factory bldg. & imp.	P 13,482,400.00
LAGUNA			
AM-PY-042	South Fairway Homes Classic, Landayan, San Pedro	45 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-599232 with bldg. & imp.	P 277,500.00
AM-MC-043	Blk. 4 Lot 11, Regal Homes, Brgy.- Alapan I, Imus	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-1995484) with bldg. & imp.	P 219,000.00
IRIGA CITY			
AM-CP-044	San Francisco	5,154 m² three (3) adjoining commercial lots (TCT Nos. 2004, 2005 & 2006) with bldg. & imp. and machinery/equipment/furniture/fixtures	P 54,251,000.00
AM-CP-045	San Juan III	7,736 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 2003)	P 4,882,500.00
NEGROS ORIENTAL			
AM-JA-046	Guba, Sta. Catalina	4,196 m² six (6) untitled residential lots (TD No. 15-001-3397) with imp.	P 1,339,800.00
RIZAL			
AM-MC-047	Monzon St., Vista Verde Exec. Village, Phase 9, Bo. Sto Domingo, Cainta	200 m² residential lot (TCT No. 692494) with school bldg. & imp.	P 2,600,200.00
AM-PY-048	Lot 8 Blk. 2 Señora Dela Paz, Brgy. Sta. Cruz	375 m² residential lot (TCT No. 3888967) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,009,500.00
CHATTELS (sale on per item/set and "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AM-MC-049	National Highway, Matangian II, Lemery, Batangas	One (1) set ice plant machinery and equipment	P 2,624,500.00
AM-JA-050	Brgy. Ilog, Infanta, Quezon	One (1) Rock crushing plant equipment	P 200,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566 / 893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for code starting with AM; (074) 442-5305, or 892-3836 and 818-9511 local 2227 Code starting with BAG.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – March 18 & 19, 2005)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pag-IBIG FUND is inviting qualified Contractors/Suppliers to Apply for Eligibility and Bid for the following requirements:

Item No.	Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
I	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Enterprise Anti-Virus Solution Suite-(Software and Licenses for 3,880 users (Re-Bidding)	P 7,566,000.00	P 1,500.00	April 01, 2005 1:30 p.m.
II	Supply and Delivery of various Computer Peripherals	P 9,826,915.00	P 2,000.00	April 4, 2005 1:30 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid Forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services 7th floor Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City starting March 18, 2005.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements and opening of Bid Proposals shall be conducted at Room 602, 6th Floor, Pag-IBIG Fund Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Ave., Makati, as follows:

Item No.	Schedule of Opening of Bids (tentative)
I	April 13, 2005; 1:30 p.m.
II	April 18, 2005; 1:30 p.m.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Carlos A. Latorre/Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz at 811-42-62, 894-58-95 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
Senior Vice President, Technical Support Group
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI--March 18 & 28, 2005)
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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4444; Fax 636-2577 or 631-6899
Email: fpalabrica@adb.org, emontevirgen@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY and BID

CONTRACT SERVICES for OFFICE of INFORMATION SYSTEMS and TECHNOLOGY (Contract No. ADB/OAS-2005/019)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding for Contract Services for the Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).
2. The Contractor shall provide Information Technology (IT) Services with specialized skills, knowledge and wide experience to undertake the service required by OIST. The required number of IT Service personnel to be deployed at ADB is at a minimum of 64. The actual composition is a mixture of Application Systems Services (Quality Test); Computer Systems Development (Oracle, Web, Lotus Notes); Technical Support (Database, System, Network, Security, and Notes Administration); PC Technology Hardware (Desktop, Printer, and Notebook); and Data Center Operations and IT Assistance. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Prequalification documents can be obtained from Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **18–23 March 2005** on any working day (8:00 am to 4:00 pm). For inquiries you may contact Edwin Montevirgen at the above telephone/fax numbers or email address.
4. Invitation to bid will be issued to prequalified applicants who pass the prequalification criteria and evaluated as prequalified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by site inspections, if necessary.
5. Only prequalified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI–March 18 & 21, 2005)

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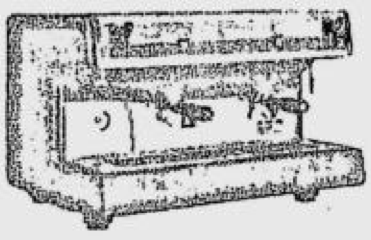
April 16, 2005 (SATURDAY), 1p.m.–3p.m., 2301 Lising Bldg. Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
For inquiries and reservations call **(02) 8171074 / (02) 8175528**. Look for Richelle or Joanne. Limited seats available.



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the JANITORIAL MANPOWER SERVICES for SEC Main Office, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY ONE PESOS (4,403,341.00). The contract is for one (1) year from the date of award for 16 janitors, 15 haulers, 1 electrician, 1 utility man and 1 supervisor all rendering eight (8) hours duty for six (6) days a week of from Monday to Saturday.

a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
b. Partnership duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
c. Corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
e. Bidder must be in operation continuously for ten (10) years up to 2004.

Bidder should submit a contract for the last two (2) years period and must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **March 10, 2005** to **March 17, 2005** at the General Services Division, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Deadline for submission and opening of eligibility envelope shall be on **March 28, 2005**, 10:00 a.m. at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained from **March 28 to April 4, 2005** at the General Services Division, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). For further details, please contact Asst. Director Romeo O. Dauag at Tel. No. 727-3320. Only Bidder who is pre-qualified could purchase the Bid Documents and shall be eligible to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and participate in the Bidding.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **April 4, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of bid envelopes will be on **April 18, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents will no longer be accepted anymore.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 11 & 18, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee - Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers for:

One (1) lot supply, delivery and installation of Security Glass Film and Bullet Resistant Glass Windows and Doors, for the use of BSP Security Plant Complex

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) . P15,130,400.00
Delivery Period : Sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order

Bid documents are available from March 11, 2005 to March 28, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,600.00 at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building
cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No(s). 524-8717 / 523-1321

Pre-Bid Conference Date and Time : April 1, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Bidding Date and Time : April 13, 2005 not later than 10:00 a.m.
Place : Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers and Company Profile
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its authorized Agent Banks or Certified True Copy of the Income Tax Return issued by the Revenue District Officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue concerned (for electronic filing)
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number (photocopy of the TIN Card)
5. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC)* which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid; or a cash deposit certificate valid for at least one (1) month reckoned from March 31, 2005. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC.

   *NFCC = [(Current assets – Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10

7. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check.
9. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
11. Sworn certification from the bidder attesting full support in supplying replacements, accessories and related items of the requirement (for at least five (5) years or more after its delivery), as well as after sales service

Envelope 2:

1. Instructions to Bidders
2. Certification of Compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the bidding
3. Original Bid Security

Envelope No. 3:
Price Proposal

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI–March 18, 2005)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O.Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 632-4306/4231, (632) 632-4444 Fax No (632) 636-2577
Email: psantiago@adb.org, cpsoriano@adb.org

INVITATION to BID

PROCUREMENT of VARIOUS PRINTING PAPER

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, wishes to receive bids from prospective bidders for about 268.18 metric tons, Various Printing Paper: Bond Paper, Recycled Paper, Recycled Bond Paper and Matt Paper (hereinafter referred to as "Goods").
2. The bidder shall be from a member country of ADB, and the Various Printing Paper being offered shall be produced in a member country or countries of ADB.
3. Bid documents may be obtained from the office of the Officer-in-Charge, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, OAIS-PC, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Room 1636S at the above address, from 18 and **21-23 March 2005** (from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
4. Bids should reach ADB not later than **10:00 a.m. on 8 April 2005**. For inquiries, contact Cita Soriano (telephone 632-4306) at the above e-mail address.
5. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of order, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for ADB's action.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of Bid shall be borne solely by the Bidder.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI–March 18 & 21, 2005)

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO ALL U.P. CREDIT COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

You are all invited to attend the 60th Annual General Assembly and Election of Officers on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 at ANG BAHAY NG ALUMNI, UP Campus, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Registration will start at 1:00 p.m. followed by General Assembly and Election of Officers until 5:00 p.m.

MANAGEMENT

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Ecop, GTZ tie up to boost social accountability of firms

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) has stepped up initiatives to boost compliance by local firms to social accountability principles – core labor standards, human rights and environmental protection. Through a partnership with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Ecop is set to spearhead a series of multipartite policy dialogues to tackle relevant issues and concerns on social accountability. Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano noted that multinational companies in Europe and North America have increased efforts to monitor compliance by their supply chains, which are mostly located in developing countries like the Philippines, with codes of conduct with strong social and labor provisions. Suppliers and subcontractors which violate these codes of conduct run the risk of losing orders. According to ECOP and GTZ, the policy dialogues involving leaders from organized labor, government, employers and civil society aim to generate consensus as to how a multi-sectoral approach in the promotion and implementation of social accountability may be realized. The ECOP-GTZ project also entails the commissioning of a policy paper analyzing the current social accountability situation in the country, the results of which will be presented to the various stakeholders during the policy dialogue this month. The project will also work with at least three companies to see how social accountability principles may be institutionalized and be made a part of their day to day operations. The project was formally launched today through the signing of a partnership agreement between Ecop and GTZ.

FPE, Moonrise Film Festival launch two new categories

TWO new categories have been launched by the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education for this year's Moonrise Film Festival, through the generous support of the Foundation for Philippine Environment. These two new categories are Best Documentary on Biodiversity and Best Documentary on Campaign: Mining. Each category has a P75, 000 cash prize and a trophy for the best documentary that will focus on these issues. This is separate from the P100, 000 cash prize and trophy for the Best Overall Documentary that will focus on Philippine environment and culture. More than P300, 000 in prizes await documentary film makers who will be participating in this year's Moonrise Film Festival. CEAE invites all documentary filmmakers, from first-timers to professionals, to tell their own stories about the Philippines. All documentaries focusing on our country's environment and culture made from 1999 onwards are eligible to compete. They can be submitted in VCD or DVD format (NTSC). Download submission forms and check out the festival mechanics at www.moonrisefilmfest.org. The deadline for submission of entries will be on May 31, 2005 for early submission and June 30 for final submission. The Moonrise Film Festival is intended to be an annual event and is made possible through the support of the Ford Motor Conservation and Environmental Grants. Submit or mail your entries to: The Submissions Curator The Center for Environmental Awareness and Education Unit 3A Gilmore Heights, #18 Granada cor. Castilla Sts., Barangay Valencia, Quezon City 1100. For inquiries: Call Froi at 721-7360 Email CEAE at communication@ceae.org. Or check the website: www.moonrisefilmfest.org.

La Salle Alumni host career forum

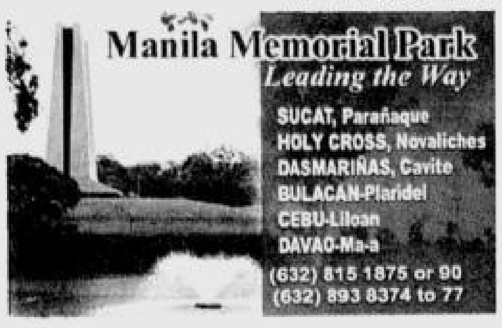
ON MARCH 30, the Liberal Arts Chapter of the De La Salle Alumni Association will host "Fast Track Your Career With Lasallians Looking Out For One Another". With the Philippine economic recovery underway, it is indeed timely for a career forum. This forum is unique in that, it not only addresses concerns of finding a better job and getting a promotion but also how to have a successful second career. In one day, there are two separate sessions. The forum will take place at the Francisco Santiago Hall, at the mezzanine floor of the Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1 at H.B. de la Costa corner Makati Avenue. The forum will revolve on such topics such as "How Not to Let a Difficult Boss Get in the Way of Your Career Advancement", "How Emotional Intelligence Can Further Your Career", "To Be a CEO, Think Like a CEO", "Blunders in Career Change", "How to Motivate Your Superiors to Promote You", "Myths About How to Fast Track Career", "Fast Track my Career or Put up my Own Business?", "Do's and Don'ts to Fast Track a Career". Everyone is encouraged to contact the La Salle alumni office at 523-6158, 526-5612, fax 809-8074 and e-mail francodelrosario@hotmail.com. Lasallians have priority registrations up to March 16th after which confirmations will be given to non-Lasallians. La Salle alumni desiring to speak in future career forums are likewise, requested to fax or e-mail their bio-data.

Arts Across Borders concert in Negros Occidental

THE INTERNATIONAL Visitors Program Alumni Foundation (IVP Philippines), the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA), Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and Sagay City Government present "Arts Across Borders" in Bacolod City's Provincial Capitol Building on March 16 and Sagay City's Balay Kausuagan on March 17. The event aims to promote the arts as an instrument for unity and peace and to encourage linkages among artists and patrons from various sectors of society. In line with the theme "Arts for Unity and Peace: Bringing Down Barriers", "Arts Across Borders" will gather artists and art lovers in a program of dance, theater, music, literature and visual arts. The event will feature local Negrense artists with guest appearance by Metro Manila artists. Slated to perform are pianist Greg Zuniega, actor Joe Torre, soprano Karen Kelly, Kabataang Silaynon Rondalla Ensemble, Novo Concertante choir, PNU Cadiz Chorale, School of the Future Dance Troupe of Sagay, University of St. La Salle Choir, Negros Occidental Provincial Choir, West Negros College Chorale, Sagay National High School Dance Troup and visual artists from Negros Occidental. Slated to give testimonies on the arts as an instrument for unity and peace are acclaimed film director Peque Gallaga and Dr. Elsie Cosculluela, Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of St. La Salle. Gallaga will speak at the Bacolod event while Dr. Cosculluela will speak at the Sagay show.

PMAP launches Tong Free Philippines Project

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) recently launched the Tong - Free Philippines project which aims to attack corruption at the "giver" level. Recognizing that the Philippines is now rated the second most corrupt country in Asia according to an international rating agency, the PMAP president Lina A. Aseneta, FPM said that this situation has put every Filipino and the Philippines in a very shameful light in the eyes of foreign investors, governments, visitors and among the Filipinos themselves. It is about time she said that something must be done about it in the private sector which is a major contributor to corruption in this country. The Tong - Free Philippines project is an immediate strategy to stop bribes and related practices at the enterprise level starting with the PMAP members, and, later to join with other sectors to reach all of society. Already several associations led by the Philippine Movement for Good Governance (PhilMoGoGo), an umbrella organization promoting good governance in the country and many well known individuals have pledged to participate in a comprehensive nation wide program.


Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque
HOLY CROSS, Novaliches
DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
BULACAN-Plaridel
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"I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in Me will live even though he dies."
— **John 11:25**

Our Most Beloved

BASILIO M. LUCIANO, SR.

Peacefully passed on to eternal life to join his Creator on March 16, 2005 at the age of 84.

He is mourned by his loving wife **Maxima**.

Children: **Basilio Jr.**, **Carmencita** and **Danilo**, **Daisy** and **Melvin**, **Elvira** and **Nelson**, **Florita** and **Nicolas** and **Gener**.

Grandchildren: **Greg Noel**, **Gjenelyn**, **Gladys**, **Grace**; **Annelisse** and **Almark**, **Brian Bon** and **Mike**; **Neil Erick**, **Natasha Elaine**; **Paul Nico**, **Paul Noel** and **Pauline**; Grandson: **Andre**.

Siblings: **Potenciana**, **Angela**, **Diego** and **Nene**, **Ceferina**, **Jesus** and **Cita**, and all nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

The wake is at the family residence, 385 San Gabriel, Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Interment will be on Saturday, the 19th of March, 2005 at St. Gabriel Memorial Park, after an offering of the Holy Eucharist at 2:00 in the afternoon.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill
the body, but cannot kill the soul".
Matt: 10-28

In loving memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

DR. HOMER M. CALIBAG

Dec. 18, 1957 – March 18, 2004

May we request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be offered at the following:

Parish of Santo Sepulcro, Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna	6:00 a.m. & 7:00 a.m.
Family Mausoleum, San Pedro Municipal Cemetery	11:00 a.m.

You will always remain in our hearts!

Bel, Paolo, Gorby, Nanay, brothers and sisters

Alfonso (Ponsing) Bediones, Sr.

Former Board Member of the Province of Capiz

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 10, 2005 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Lourdes**; children **Consuelo** & **Alex**, **Alfonso, Jr.** & **Timay**, **Gerome** & **Jocelyn**, **Stephen** & **Bebs**, **Kenneth** & **Dina**, **Melou** (†), **Dennis**, **Emily** & **Ivan**; grandchildren and relatives request readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies at his residence at Burgos St., Roxas City.

Interment will be today, March 18, 2005 at Banica Catholic Cemetery at 3:00 p.m.

JOHN WILLIAM "WILLIE" C. CHENG

of San Juan, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 17, 2005 at the age of 79.

His beloved wife **Concepcion "Connie"**; children **Jem** and **Mimi** and **Lance**; grandchildren **Patrick** and **Billy**; sister **Liling**; nephews, nieces, relatives, and **Ate Emma**, the family's faithful and loyal friend request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2005.

Cremation will immediately follow at Manila Memorial Park-Crematorium.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— **Psalm 21:15**

Our Dearly Beloved

CLAUDIA "ELLEN" CAOLBOY ESTRADA

(Wife of the late BGen Wilfredo C. Estrada)

Peacefully joined the Lord on March 15, 2005 at the age of 83

Her children Eleanor & Terry Dela Cruz, Roberto, Franklin & Lynn Bueno, Eva, Vicky & Orville Roque, Wilfredo Jr. & Lisa Azurin, Lili & Butch Bautista, Boots, Fe, Gene & Juliet Rafael, Ernie & Eileen Labor (†); grandchildren, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Ignatius Chapel, St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 19, 2005, at the Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City, immediately following the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ignatius Chapel.

"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." **John 11:25-26**

Atty. ENRICO "Chico" LOPEZ GONZALEZ

Died in the grace of our Lord on March 16, 2005 at the age of 47.

His bereaved mother **Sony Lopez Gonzalez**; sisters **Rosanna Gonzalez Paredes**, **Gianna Lopez Gonzalez**, **Antonella Gonzalez Garcia**; brother **Carlo Lopez Gonzalez**; nephews and niece **Paco Gonzalez Paredes**, **Jamie & Zachary & Marianna Gonzalez Garcia & Nicolo Kristoff Lopez Gonzalez**; brother-in-law **Michael de Joya Garcia**, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center. Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

On the 40th day after he passed away, we, the family of the late

MANUEL GARCIA GOOCO

wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who offered their support and sympathy during the time of our father's *"coming home"* journey.

We are truly overwhelmed by your gesture that meaningfully lightened our burden and eased our grief. .

Maraming salamat po.

10 Nov. 1930 - 07 Feb. 2005

We remember our loved one to have lived his Life according to these lines:

"I expect to pass this world but once
Any good thing therefore that I can do,
or any kindness I can show to my fellowmen
Let me do it now
Let me not defer or neglect it
For I shall not pass this way again"

In Loving Memory

On the 22nd Death Anniversary of

CONRADO C. ALCANTARA

who passed away on March 19, 1983

The Holy Mass will be offered for the eternal repose of his soul at the following:

Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque	3:30pm
Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran, Pasay City	6:45am
St. Andrew Cathedral, Parañaque City	12:00nn
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Makati	6:00pm
San Roque Parish Church, Cabrera St., Pasay City	6:00pm
San Juan Nepomuceno Parish, Pasay City	6:00pm
Sta. Clara Parish, P. Burgos, Pasay City	6:30pm
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes, Makati	7:00pm
Carmelite Monastery Church, Lanang, Davao City	6:00am
San Pablo Parish, Matina, Davao City	6:00am
St. Joseph the Workers Parish, Sasa, Davao City	6:00am
San Antonio Parish, Agdao, Davao City	6:30am
St. Jude Parish, Malvar Street, Davao City	12:00nn
Sta. Ana Church, Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City	12:00nn
San Isidro Labrador Chapel, Sto. Niño, Talaingod, Davao del Norte	5:00pm
San Pedro Cathedral, San Pedro Street, Davao City	5:30pm
Assumption Church, F. Torres Street, Davao City	5:45pm
Redemptorist Church, J. P. Laurel Ave., Davao City	6:00pm
Iligan Cathedral Church, Iligan City	6:00am
San Roque Parish Church, Kiwalan, Iligan City	6:00am
Lugait Parish Church, Lugait Misamis Oriental	5:00pm
March 18	
Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel, C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc., Compound Lanang, Davao City	3:15pm
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Buayan, Alabel, Sarangani Province	4:00pm

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

— John 3:16

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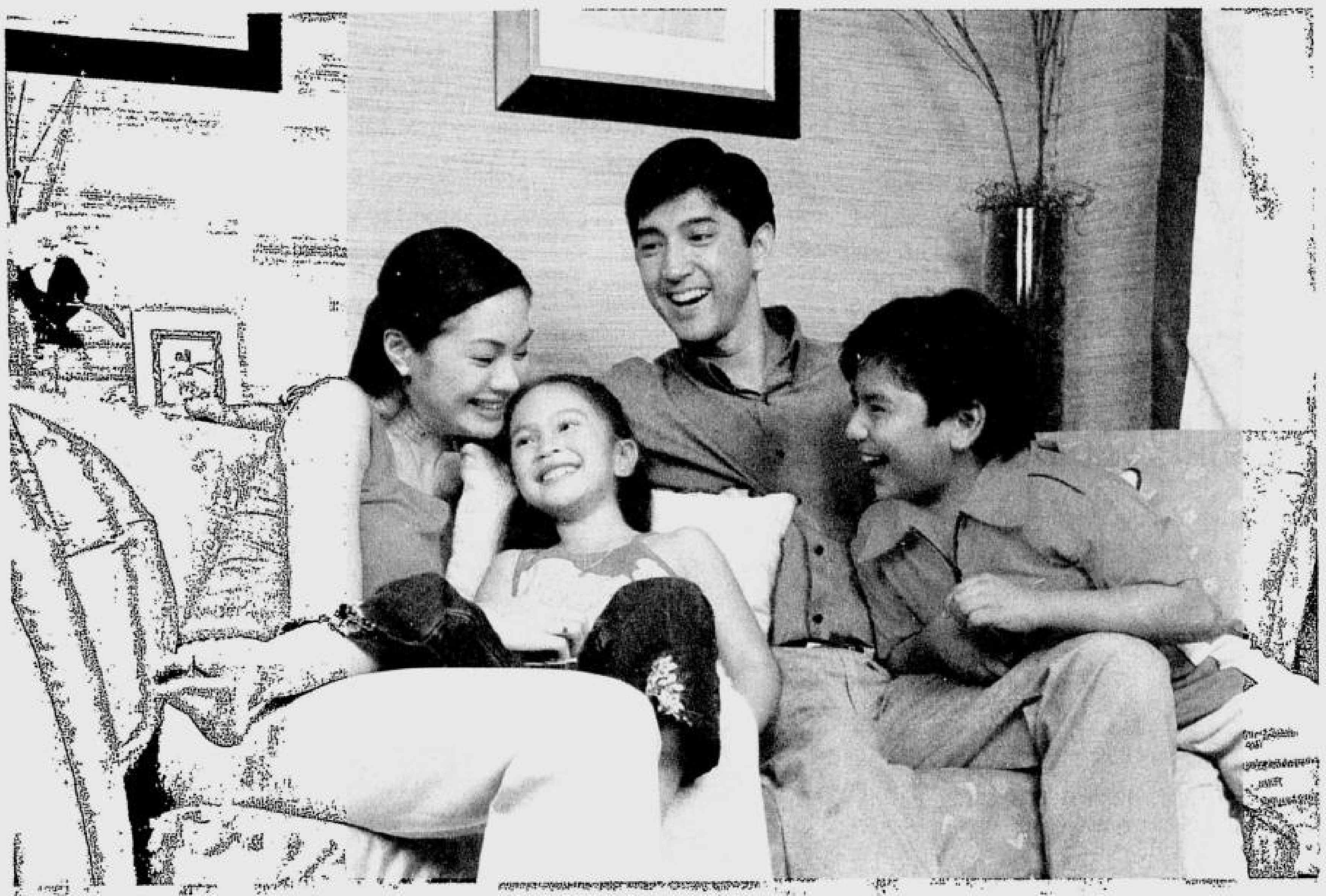

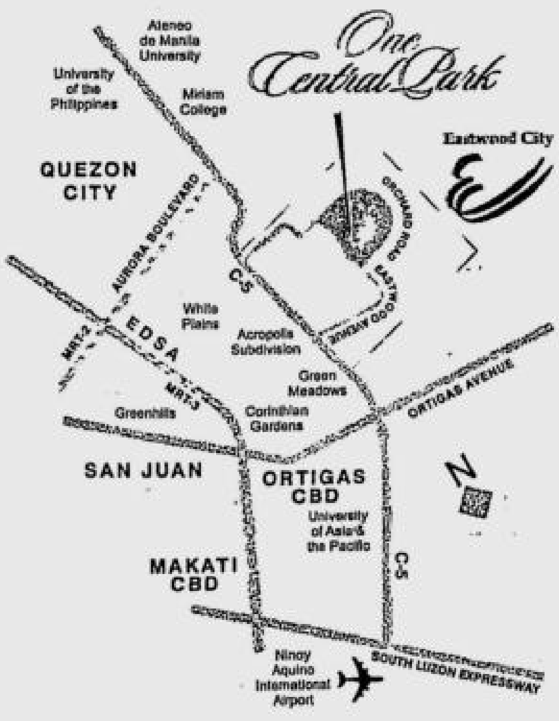
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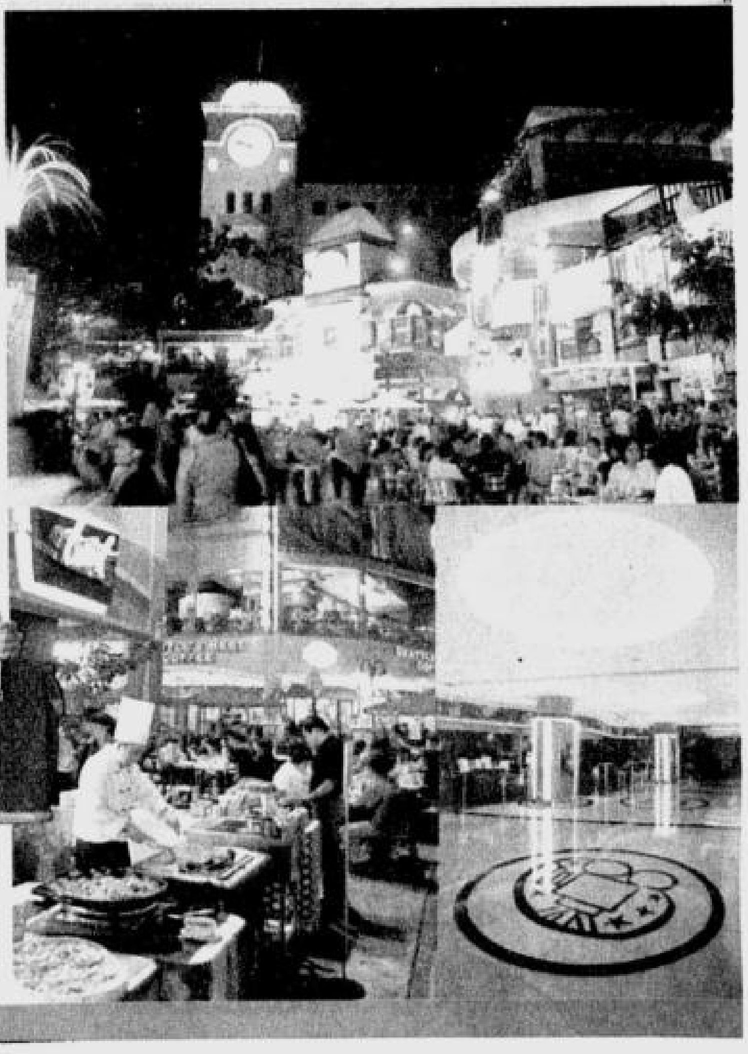

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GRAND "ANVIL" AWARDS
on
B2 pages 3 to 8

Finding gold in customer data

By Yayu Javier
Contributor

DO you know who your top 100 or top 20 percent customers are? You would most likely say yes. Do you know their demographics—where they live, how old they are, what is their income bracket, etc? Your answer would still probably fall on the affirmative.

Are you conscious of your customers' purchase behavior—how often they buy from you, what they buy, which store they buy from, how much they buy and if there were any lapses in their purchase pattern? Perhaps, you'd say yes to some of them.

Are you aware of their lifestyles—their hobbies, favorite recreation, favorite food, preferred vacations, pets they own, even their favorite pet's name, etc? You would only possibly nod to a few.

According to Prof. Jose Jesus Roces, professor at the AIM's Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center, companies today have to be better, faster, cheaper and closer to their customers to become more competitive.

Customer Relationship Marketing (CRM) is the buzzword in the industry and the key tool in getting closer to your customers.

Knowing exactly what your customers need and understanding both their behavior and lifestyle will help a marketer determine the products, services and promotional offers he can provide at the point when customers want it.

What you sell and when you sell becomes a success because you know your customers will appreciate it. The ultimate objective however, is not just about getting closer but in increasing the lifetime value of the customers.

Acquiring customers

Simply put, it is making your customer contribute more to your profits for a longer period of time. A relationship marketing campaign must not only measure the response of the communications but must also determine the profitability of all its customer activities.

Relationship marketing can start with acquiring the customers, then retaining them. Customer acquisition activities require prospecting by identifying first your target audience and determining where you will find them.

While direct marketing can be part of CRM, the latter is distinct because it involves utilizing customer information to become more intimate in approach and be more effective in results.

Customer acquisition activities may include targeted events and the use of existing databases that have sufficient consumer information to initiate a more personalized message.

Available sources of customer information may come from invoices, warranty cards, telemarketing surveys, raffle stubs and event registrations.

Car insurance companies, for example, tap the database of car owners to communicate their promotions for their products. Commercial centers use raffle draws and the SMS technology to acquire customer data information.

Once obtained, specific retailer promotions may be sent to target customers of the retailer.

Retaining customers

Once a transaction has been made, it is important to monitor the customer's purchase behavior in terms of frequency of the purchase, recency of the last purchase and spend levels.

Find out what they want and need; what are they not buying from you and why? What are they actually buying, what do they want improved and why? Then—do not limit yourself to knowing only about their purchases and address, but also learn about the other members of their family, their occupation, their likes and dislikes and lifestyle.

Matching all these information will aid you in understanding your customers and in planning a more targeted and effective marketing activity or campaign.

Many of the culinary clubs have been quite successful in retaining their customers by using the club as a venue to understand their needs.

Del Monte Kitchenomics Club has focused

FINDING/ B2-2

PRACTICAL MAGIC

Marketing solutions via creativity and accountability

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CHARLES Cadell, regional MD, Arc Worldwide, Michelle Kristula-Green, president, Leo Burnett Asia Pacific, and Nick Brien, CEO, Arc Worldwide, launching Arc Worldwide.

THE PERENNIAL challenge for the advertising and marketing worlds has been how to connect to the consumer through the maze of brand messages he gets in a day and more importantly, to stay connected.

In fact, a consumer gets bombarded by around 3,000 brand messages a day, says Leo Burnett Asia-Pacific president Michelle Kristula-Green.

That's about 21,000 brand messages in a week and nearly 1.1 million in a year.

"It's overload. What's happening is they're shutting down and ignoring it. So what is important is knowing how do I make the right brand of communication at the right time, in the right way to communicate what I want to communicate," Kristula-Green said in a recent interview during the launch of Arc Worldwide in Kuala Lumpur in late February.

In the United States for example, major multinational companies have slashed their advertising budget for television by millions of dollars and are looking at other non-traditional ways to promote their brands.

To respond to these challenges, Arc Worldwide, which merged Leo Burnett's marketing disciplines under one roof, was created last year. These services consist of direct marketing and customer relationship marketing, interactive promotions (sponsorship and events), shopper marketing (trade and retail marketing), and public relations.

Leo Burnett Worldwide, a wholly owned subsidiary of Paris-based Publicis Groupe SA, is the world's fourth largest communications group, according to Advertising Age's ranking in April 2003. The Arc Worldwide banner unites industry leaders like Frankel, Semaphore and iLeo.

Arc keeps a roster of big-ticket clients such as General Motors, McDonald's, Visa, Procter & Gamble, Kellogg's and The Coca-Cola Co. It holds headquarters in Chicago and runs 42 offices in 36 countries with over 1,100 employees.

Last Feb. 24, Arc launched its Asia Pacific arm in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, completing its marketing fleet.

"We must become holistic marketers and the launch of Arc now ensures that Burnett has the capability to do that for our client brands," Kristula-Green said during a speech at the launch.

She added that with the launch of Arc in the Asia Pacific, the group now has the opportunity with its partners and Leo Burnett to lead the redefinition of marketing services.

"We live in an era where the world is reinventing itself and in Asia more than any other area in the region, people are hungry for change, who love, embrace and demand new products, new technology, and new medium of communication," she said further.

"A lot of the dynamism is in the ex-

MARKETING/ B2-2

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No ITR, no business

By Joel L. Tan-Torres
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE RECENT issuance of two revenue regulations gives us a preview of what to expect in the near future. Revenue Regulations No. 3-2005 and 4-2005 were issued by the Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue last February. These two regulations prescribe the submission of tax returns as a precondition for transacting with banks and government offices.

Revenue Regulations No. 3-2005 mandates that all entities entering into government contracts must submit, along with the bid documents, the latest copy of the income tax return and business tax returns. Meanwhile, Revenue Regulations No. 4-2005 requires that all borrowers applying for a loan with banks must first submit a copy of its latest income tax return and financial statements. These new regulations clearly indicate that the BIR now is closely coordinating with other institutions to ensure that the parties that they are dealing with are paying their correct taxes, or at least, filing their tax returns.

Right step

The cooperation between the BIR and the government offices and banks is a step in the right direction. Various studies and reports have indicated that there are substantial tax leakages arising from those not reporting their correct taxes. Various reports indicate that tens of billions of tax leakages occur each year. This to a great extent is contributing to the growing fiscal problems of our country. In 2004, the budget deficit amounted to P186 billion.

Therefore, efforts that are directed to plugging tax loopholes are necessary. This requirement of submission of tax returns as a condition for transactions with banks and government offices will help in reducing tax leakages.

Transactions with government

Revenue Regulations 3-2005 states "only tax compliant entities are allowed to enter into contracts with government."

Implementing the mandate of Executive Order No. 398 which was signed by the President on January 12, 2005, it is now required that "all persons, natural or juridical, local or foreign, desiring to enter into or participate in any contract with the government, its departments, bureaus, offices and agencies, including corporations, government financial institutions and local government units shall, as a pre-condition, submit, along with their proposal and/or bid, a copy of their latest income tax and business tax returns." Once this is fully implemented, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of tax returns will be submitted by government contractors.

The Regulations provides that all entities before entering into contracts with government offices must submit their latest

(1) annual income tax return,

(2) value added tax or percentage tax returns covering the previous six months, and

(3) tax clearance to be issued by the Collection Enforcement Division of the BIR. For new establishments which have no annual income tax return yet, the quarterly income tax returns may instead be submitted.

It is also required that beginning May 1, 2005, only tax returns filed under the BIR's electronic filing and payment system (EFPS) will be accepted from government contractors.

The government office must check the authenticity of the tax returns and clearance submitted. This can be checked by telephone at the BIR contact center or through the BIR portal. Furthermore, these offices must submit to the BIR a list of contracts and payments made to these contracting parties. The BIR can then use this to verify if these contracts are being reported for tax purposes.

Loans with banks

Revenue Regulations 4-2004 has practically the same requirements from bank borrowers. These regulations and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Revised Circular No. 47 Series of 2005 mandate that a credit applicant and comaker must submit a copy of their latest income tax return and financial statements. A borrower must also submit a waiver of confidentiality of client information and/or an authority of the bank to conduct random verification with the BIR in order to establish the authenticity of the tax return and financial statements.

The banks must check the authenticity of the income tax returns and financial statements submitted. This can be checked at the BIR Contact Center or through the BIR portal.

The banks must then consider the data/figures in the tax return and financial statement in the evaluation of the financial capacity and credit worthiness of the credit applicants. The BSP circular also provides that if the documents submitted prove to be spurious or incorrect, the bank may terminate the loan granted on the basis of these documents. The bank shall then have the right to demand immediate repayment of the obligation.

Factors to consider

Once these procedures are implemented, the BIR Contact Center and the Collection Enforcement Division (CED) will surely be receiving a lot of requests for tax clearances and authenticity check. These BIR offices should be in a position to respond on a timely and convenient manner. Failure to do so will unduly delay the implementation of business plans and transactions of affected parties. If these arise, complaints will be forthcoming.

The requirement for government contractors to submit tax clearances is not contained in EO 398. This was included only in RR 3-2005. Securing a tax clearance is a long process and involves several steps:

First, a government contractor files an application with the BIR. Hopefully, the BIR will find a convenient way of accommodating applicants from far away locations, such as Mindanao like allowing submission of applications by telefax or by mail.

Next, the BIR will process applications received. It is important that the BIR allot resources to handle the volume to applications received.

Then, government offices with contracts will have to authenticate the tax clearance submitted by contractors with the BIR. Some implementation issues that may crop up include: What if a government contractor is shown to have an unpaid tax liability? What if the unpaid accounts arose from cases protested by the taxpayer and which the BIR has not yet resolved. Will the contractor be barred from submitting a bid because of this unpaid account?

EO 398 and RR 3-2005 both do not specify what the government office will do with the tax returns submitted by contract bidders.

It is not clear whether the information in the tax returns will be considered by the government offices in the evaluation of the capacity of the contractor to qualify for the bid or contract.

In government contracts that will be funded by foreign loans, it is expected that foreign contractors will submit bids. If a foreign contractor is not operating presently in the Philippines, it will not be able to submit a Philippine tax return that is a pre-condition to submitting a bid. How will this be handled?

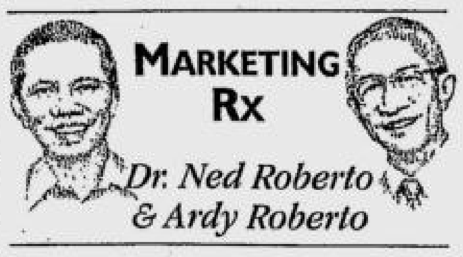
Government offices are required to submit a list of contracts awarded and payments to the BIR. There is no similar provision for banks to submit to the BIR a list of loan transactions.

The trend

The trend has started. More and more, the BIR is coordinating with other parties to monitor the transactions of taxpayers by requiring the submission of tax returns. News accounts even mention that the Department of Finance and the BIR will soon be asking the foreign embassies to require visa applicants to present the income tax return as a pre-requisite for the approval of the visas.

Following this trend, is it a matter of time when we will have to first present our tax return before we can buy a car, open a bank account, purchase a house, invest in a club share, or fly abroad?

Who are you? Making decisions on brand name changes



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I AM Roderick Bajo of the Institute of Library and Information Science. I found your two past column articles about the marketing of schools very helpful. I am currently researching the effects on student school perception of a name change in my Institute. I hope I can hear from you about marketing of a school when it changes its brand name. What's in a name? How does a school's new name affect the student perception of it?

This research I'm doing relates to the change in the name of the Institute of Library Science (ILS) into Institute of Library and Information Science (ILIS). I am investigating how the addition of the word 'information' in our institute's name has affected the students' perception of the ILS, and their choice to enroll in the institute. In other words, will the change in school name affect the school image and enrollment?

A: We should start our diagnosis by distinguishing between a product brand and a corporate brand. Your concern about your school's change of name relates to corporate branding more than product branding. There's of course a relationship between the two, as you will see later in our diagnosis, but starting with their difference guards against confusion.

The 3-tier branding process

Corporate branding also relates to what we called in one of our previous columns as "mark branding." In that previous column, we said that to be successful in getting the market to quickly accept and become intimate with your product branding, you should follow a three-tier branding process.

Core branding

The first tier is "core branding." The imaging function of this tier is to have a name that will be distinctive and will differentiate the brand from all other brands in the category. Core branding happens to be also a legal requirement for naming a new product. It has to be different if the DTI or SEC can approve its legal registration.

Sub-branding

Being different has its advantage. But it has also its disadvantage. Aside from innovators and early adopters who are just about 15 percent of the market, the rest are hesitant to come to the new brand. They need a reason for adopting. Providing this reason is the imaging function of the second tier, "sub-branding." It presents in three, four or five words, the distinctive promise of the brand in satisfying the market's priority product values. This second tier branding can cut the market acceptance time in half.

Mark branding

The third tier can further cut that time by another half. This is the practice of "mark branding." This tier's imaging function is to legitimize the brand owner in terms of its reputation as a product source. It is intended to establish trust for the brand. It is saying to the market: "Look. This new brand comes from no ordinary Juan de la Cruz. This is a brand from this reputable maker." A mark brand is the product maker's corporate brand name together with its corporate image. Mark branding is, in other words, corporate branding.

The name change you're concerned with is a change in your school's corporate brand (or mark brand): "Institute of Library Science (ILS)." The specific type of name change in ILS' case is the adding of another term to make it: "Institute of Library and Information Science (ILIS)."

There are other types of corporate name change that's instructive for you to note. Mergers make for even longer names as when Glaxo merged with Smith-Kline which resulted in Glaxo/Smith-Kline (which they later shortened to GSK). The opposite to this is the shortening of a name such as with International Business Machines shortened to IBM. Or even in mergers, the two companies celebrating a wedding may decide in a shorter name such as what happened when Ciba-Geigy merged with Sandoz. The two decided to adopt a new and shorter name: "Novartis."

Let's go back to our analysis of corporate branding. As with product branding, the corporate brand is a "symbolic" dress of the company or in your case, the school. As a symbolic dress, the corporate brand answers its audience's two questions: (1) "Who are you?" and (2) "Why should we, your stakeholders (students, stockholders, faculty and staff), put our faith in you?" These two questions are basically a core branding question (for the first question), and a sub-branding question (for the second question).

The trend is toward the shortening of the core brand name. This is for serving the "criterion of recognizability" (an easy-to-remember and an easy-to-pronounce requirement). That's the reason why IBM replaced International Business Machines and why Novartis was chosen instead of the combination Ciba-Geigy-Sandoz. As you will notice, your decision for adding another term to your former three-word name is going against this trend and the recognizability logic.

Think about sub-branding instead

Of course, your intention to add "information" after the word "library" is clear. You're not just a library servicing organization anymore but are into the "new economy," the "information age." But this is about meaningfulness in a brand name (the "corporate positioning criterion"). That's an imaging function reserved for the second tier branding, namely, sub-branding. Why not have a corporate sub-brand instead of crowding that sub-brand into the corporate core brand?

This is a very common error. That's because most of us do not yet think core-branding-then-sub-branding sequencing in our branding decision making process.

What's an example of a corporate core brand with a corporate sub-brand? There's a lot and you see them all the time on TV commercials:

1. Unilever (corporate core brand). The Total Quality Company (corporate sub-brand).

2. HSBC (corporate core brand). The World's Local Bank (corporate sub-brand).

3. Philips (corporate core brand). Let's Make Things Better (corporate sub-brand).

4. Sharp (corportate core brand). Our name, our promise. (corporate sub-brand).

So let's summarize our Marketing Rx's:

1. Retain your corporate core brand: Institute of Library Science.

2. Or shorten that core brand into ILS.

3. Bring in the new meaning you want in your corporate school identity via a corporate sub-brand. For this, get the help of your communication agency creative team to craft the phrase you need to summarize this intended new meaningfulness.

Hope that helped you! Keep your questions coming. Send them to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

Finding gold in customer data

From page B2-1

on food preparation in a more economical way while keeping the dish just as delicious. The club has been able to communicate directly to its mother-consumers, provide recipes they like and expand the product usage through more innovative ways of "cooking with Del Monte."

The consumers' need to keep within the budget and still be able to provide the family a delectable meal was fulfilled. Club members are communicated through mails and via the website.

Some very successful relationship programs have followed their customer from birth to adulthood by providing for their different needs during the different phases of their lives.

Loyalty programs can also be a part of CRM and they play an important role in understanding purchase behavior and in rewarding for loyalty.

Loyalty programs become more effective as a relationship building effort when the rewards, promotions and benefits are customized based on the consumer needs and lifestyle.

Referral programs

Word of mouth is still the most powerful advertising medium. One of the most common tools in promoting advocacy is the referral or member-get-member program. Credit cards, spas, websites, cable providers and many more have utilized this tactic heavily in selling their products.

As a rule, a person would normally have a minimum of three for their sphere of influence and would have 10 percent of the database refer at least one.

Tracking who your customers referred, and how much the referred customer has brought to your business also provides you with a better understanding of the total value of your customer.

This also allows you to provide a simple "thank you" gesture that will go a long way toward building affinity with your customer.

Advocacy is the reason why it is important to take care of your most profitable customers because they are your best sales people.

Finding the gold

Identifying who are your most profitable customers is the secret to a successful relationship marketing initiative. Knowing more about how much they spend every visit or cycle, how often they purchase from you and when was the last time they purchased are your key metrics in identifying who are your profitable customers and who can be a potentially profitable customer.

In essence, building an intimate relationship with your customers further strengthens the image and loyalty to the brand. How to maximize that relationship to achieve better profits are what we aptly call the key measures of success.

(The author is country manager of Avanza Inc., a loyalty and customer relationship marketing company.)

Marketing solutions . . .

From page B2-1

plosion of media choices that we have. People are using their mobile phones before using the Internet. We have gone beyond the traditional TV and print way of talking to customers. People are being pummeled with brand messages. The whole point of Arc is to look at how do we connect with people in the right way at the right time, very much on a one-on-one basis," she said separately in an interview.

She explains that traditionally, marketing services have been in "pandemonium" since they report to a holding company and compete against other units for limited brand funds and they do not share their expertise.

"Clients have told us that they are tired of this approach. What they want are the appropriate resources focused on developing holistic solutions that solve the brands' problems. We set up the Arc-Burnett relationship to maximize cooperation to meet the brand's needs," she explained.

Although Arc and Leo Burnett are separate operations, both report to one managing director at the local country level.

Arc's structure ensures that rather than compete against each other on a common shared brand, it can bring the correct elements and expertise from each division against a brand's problems.

Nick Brien, Arc chief executive officer, said Arc is also adhering to a guiding principle: accountability and creativity, or what the group fondly calls "practical magic."

This is also depicted by the group's logo, which is a "mobius," or a two-sided circle representing its passion for the fusion of creativity and accountability, and delivering holistic solutions to clients. It also chose the arc since this symbolizes a continuum, or how the group views its brand's relationship with consumers and clients. The green in the logo is a literal reflection of its close partnership with Leo Burnett.

"The Arc business model is based on one clear and guiding principle—to deliver practical magic, our expression for inspired marketing solutions created through the fusion of creativity and accountability. Our close partnership

ARC sets up interactive booth at the launch for guests to design their own gifts.

with Leo Burnett enables us to jointly create and deliver holistic marketing communications to our shared clients," Brien said.

Charles Cadell, Arc's regional managing director for Asia Pacific, explained that it is also about remuneration based on results.

"Our results should be connected to our clients. We need to be partners. If our work does not deliver the results required, then our remuneration should be amended accordingly. Payment by results. It's all about accountability and creativity. Accountability is core, it has to be willing to put its money where its mouth is," Cadell said.

The Philippines, meanwhile, is well-positioned for Arc's launch with its core strengths in direct marketing and customer relationships marketing, says Cadell.

"Manila is very strong, I am using Manila for interactive and CRM as one of my resource centers. From a regional market, Manila is a hot market and has relationships with Procter & Gamble which is interested in shopper marketing projects," Cadell said.

Ichay Bulaong, managing director for Arc Worldwide Philippines, for her part said a unified network offers more advantages to clients through synergy and the transfer of knowledge and best practices across different specializations.

"We believe that with five key disciplines under one roof, we will be able to tailor-make marketing solutions to build meaningful connections between the brand, the channel and the consumer. Arc Philippines is uniquely qualified to drive results through our proprietary tools and breadth of our expertise across marketing services," Bulaong told the INQUIRER.

She also said that clients have already demanded for the transformation.

"They require a truly integrated approach to engaging customers that is focused on driving sales. We keep our brand promise which is to combine rich consumer insights, deep brand experience and extensive channel expertise to create and manage connections which drive results," she added.

Arc Philippines will soon introduce the shopper marketing discipline in the country and try to convert shoppers into profitable brand buyers with this new discipline rooted in a deep understanding of the shopper's mindset and behavior.

Arc Philippines is composed of iLeo, LeoActivation and its public relations division.

ILeo has grown into one of the country's leaders in direct marketing, managing some of the country's largest database marketing programs. Its clients include Philip Morris, Pfizer, Del Monte, Procter & Gamble and Monde Nissin.

40th ANVIL AWARDS

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines this year celebrates the 40th Anvil Awards, an annual event which has become a robust institution after four decades of colorful existence

ROLL OF HONORS

HALL OF FAME: SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

GRAND ANVIL ROLL OF HONORS

1963 1961 Presidential Elections Quick Count by the Manila Times
1964 Gen. Carlos P. Romulo for Upgrading the Facilities & Academic Excellence in the State University
1965 (No winner)
1966 (No winner)
1967 Mrs. Imelda Marcos for her Social, Cultural and International Projects
1968 President Ferdinand E. Marcos for Miracle Rice
1969 PANAMIN by the Philippine Government
1970 Polo Brewery Plant Anti-Pollution System by San Miguel Corporation
1971 The Constitutional Convention Campaign by the Manila Times
1972 Agro Forestry Development Program by PICOP
1973 Offer of 75% of Its Total Equity to the Public by the Andres Soriano Corporation
1974 (No winner)
1975 Profiles in Progress by the Andres Soriano Corporation
1976 (No winner)
1977 Maya Farms Biogas Project by Liberty Mills
1978 Entrepreneurial Information Program by the Manila Banking Corporation
1979 Filipino Tradition and Culture by San Miguel Corporation
1980 (No winner)
1981 Product Publicity Program of San Miguel Corporation
1982 (No winner)
1983 (No winner)
1984 Farmer's School on the Air by Bayer Philippines
1985 The Disaster Relief Operation of San Miguel Corporation.
1986 (No winner)
1987 Jala-Jala Community Project by Manila Electric Company
1988 Sanayan sa Kalagayang Industriya (SKIL) and Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura (SAKA) Project by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.
1989 Power for Living by DeMoss Foundation
1990 The Good News by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company
1991 Tagumpay Nating Lahat by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company
1992 Doomed to Die? Save the Philippine Eagle Program by Del Monte Philippines
1993 Kapit-Bisig Program by San Miguel Corporation
1994 The Adoption of the Apitong Community in Parang, Marikina by Far East Bank and Trust Company
1995 Save the Trees, Use Steel by National Steel Corporation
1996 EDSA para sa Masa by the Metro Rail Transit Corporation
1997 Water for Life campaign by Presidential Task Force on Water Resources Dev't & Management
1998 Corporate Social Responsibility Program by Phinma Group
1999 Sabi ng Jollibee: Kaya Mo, Kid! by Jollibee Corporation/ Agatep Associates, Inc and Mc Cann Erickson
2000 Intel Philippines Science Fair by Intel Philippines/ Agatep Associates, Inc.
2001 Malampaya: Birth of the Natural Gas Industry by Shell Philippines Exploration BV
2002 Read to Lead: A Reading Advocacy Campaign by Pfizer, Inc.
2003 Give a Life Now! by Give a Life Charity Foundation
Sitio Agusuhin Development Program by Shell Philippines Exploration BV
2004 Celebrating the Filipino: Ayala's 170th Anniversary Celebration by Ayala Corporation

BRONZE ANVIL ROLL OF HONORS

2001 ARTPETRON Collaterals by Petron Corporation & Studio 5 Designs, Inc.
2002 The Changing Face of the Filipino by Salesian Society of Don Bosco / Infinit-1 Communications

Fueling Dreams mini Documentaries by Shell Philippines Exploration BV

2003 Winning the Fight Against Breast Cancer by Avon Cosmetics, Inc.

The Aquino-Diokno Memorial by 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army / Infinit-1 Communications

2004 GINTO: History Wrought in Gold by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas / Studio 5 Designs, Inc.

The Garbage Book by Asian Development Bank

THE ANVIL

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines this year celebrates the 40th Anvil Awards, an annual event which has become a robust institution after four decades of colorful existence.

Over the years, the Anvil has gained tremendous prestige that it is dubbed the "Oscar" of public relations. The quality of the winning entries, the standards for selection, the reputation of the Board of Jurors, and the development and growth of PR, both as a profession and practice, are among the major factors that led to its acceptance and popularity.

The competition is conducted annually by the PRSP to give recognition to outstanding public relations programs or projects that are clearly identified with public interest and have a lasting impact and value.

There are two main categories: Institutional and Corporate PR Programs and Tools of Public Relations. Under these are several subcategories by which entries are classified and judged.

There are also four award categories:

The Anvil Award of Merit

The Anvil Award of Excellence

The Bronze Anvil Award and

The Grand Anvil Award

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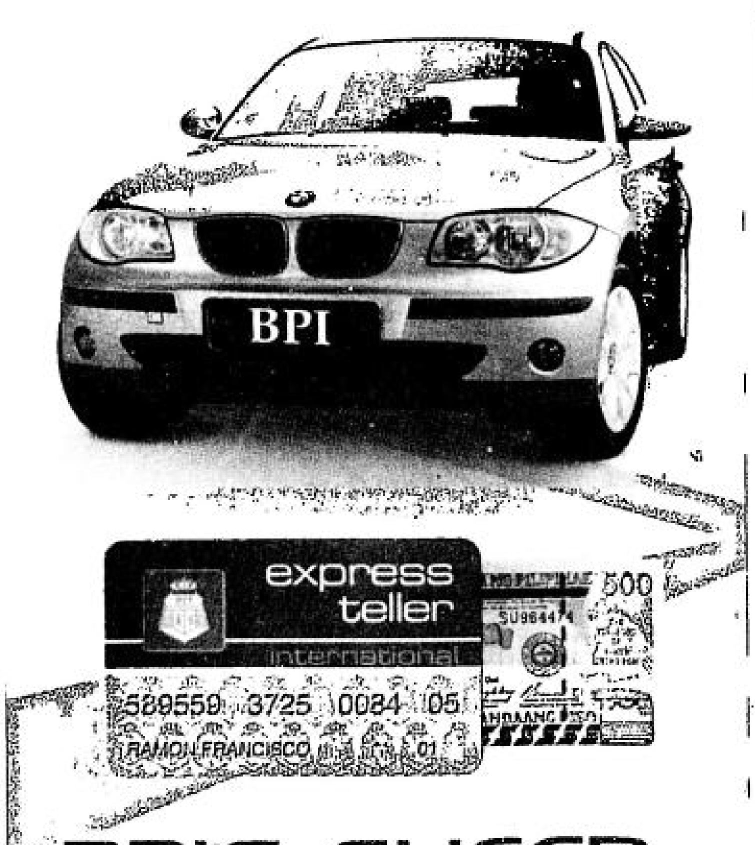

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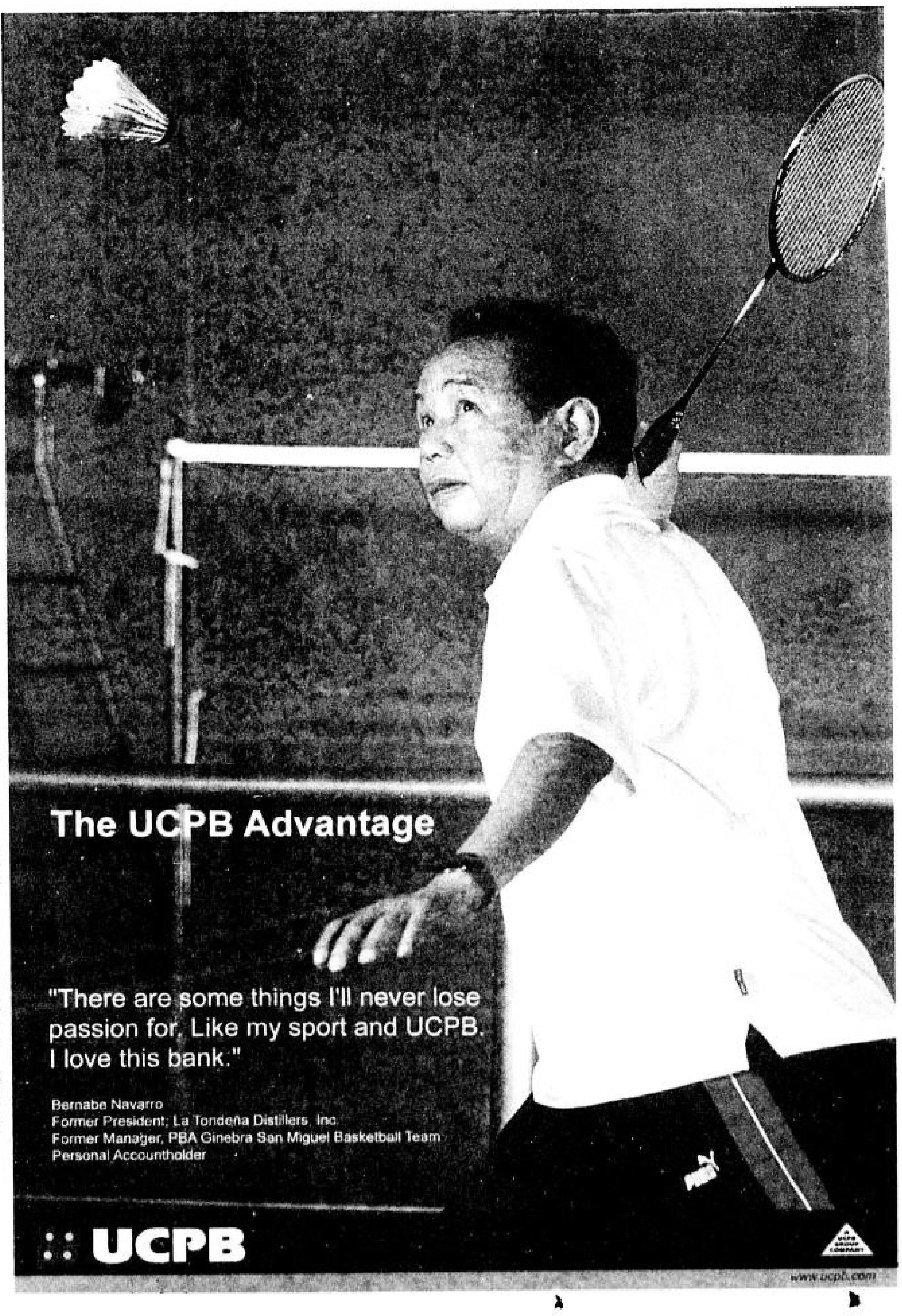
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

Kapuso ng pamilyang Pilipino, anumang kulay ng buhay.

GMA



The UCPB Advantage

"There are some things I'll never lose passion for. Like my sport and UCPB. I love this bank."

Bernabe Navarro
Former President, La Tondeña Distillers, Inc.
Former Manager, PBA Ginebra San Miguel Basketball Team
Personal Accountholder

UCPB

www.ucpb.com

Messages

I convey my esteemed greetings to the officers and members of the **Public Relations Society of the Philippines** as you hold the *40th Anvil Awards.*

The Anvil Awards gives fitting recognition to outstanding practitioners in the PR industry who have elevated their profession to the level of excellence. I commend PRSP for advancing corporate and institutional communications while promoting social awareness and responsibility.

The Anvil Awards has become a benchmark for exemplary and lasting public relations programs characterized by sensitivity and social consciousness. May this occasion inspire all of you to explore new horizons and keep up with the high standards of your practice.

I enjoin you to pursue excellence in the field and help protect a positive image of our country by focusing on its development efforts and social reforms.

Congratulations to all the awardees and *mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to the Public Relations Society of the Philippines on its 40th Anvil Awards, an important gathering of PR practitioners in the country and a showcase of the best practices and achievements in the field.

Public Relations being a vital factor in improving our quality of life, its renewed interest in promoting our sense of community and family values provides a key element to our economic and social development.

I salute the PRSP for its unwavering commitments to Philippine progress. This commitment has over years been reaffirmed through the Anvil Awards and other laudable programs..

Having done well as catalysis of change and as an instrument for enlightening our people, you have a work cut for you, and that is to achieve a higher level of excellence.

I wish you all a very successful 40th Anvil Awards night.

Congratulations to all the winners!

IGNACIO R. BUNYE
Press Secretary

Once again, we honor public relations programs and tools that mirror two hallmarks of our Society's existence: a tradition of excellence and a commitment to uplift the quality of life of the Filipino people.

While excellence is a requisite for recognition, relevance to society enhances the value of these pursuits. The programs and tools cited this year are all well-thought of, finely crafted and effectively executed. They also vigorously promoted positive values and raised social awareness of prevailing conditions.

Thus, the essence of the Anvil is not just excellent craftsmanship but also significant impact on target audiences. It is more than enhancing product, project or company. It is more than establishing identity or enriching reputation. A PR program or tool is outstanding when it also influences positively and contributes to the well-being of its specific public.

The Anvil Awards has been a powerful venue for stimulating creative vision for undertakings that render useful service to the country. And in the past 40 years, it has reaped a rich harvest of outstanding works, a valued legacy of concepts, ideals and values. The Public Relations Society of the Philippines is proud to have sustained this tradition.

My sincerest appreciation for our members, friends and supporters who have contributed greatly that this tradition may live on.

JONES T. CAMPOS, APR
President, 2004-2005

2004 - 2005 Board of Directors and Officers

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

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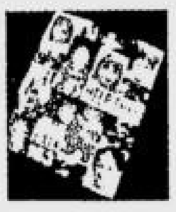
Filipino War Veterans Foundations, Inc.

Maximino Edralin, Jr., APR
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Awards Of Excellence



ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Public Affairs: Child Protection

BANTAY BATA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING PROJECT
ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

For its successful campaign to reduce the occurrence of child abuse incidents through grassroots education and community organizing and for raising awareness on the rights of the child.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Public Affairs: Environment Protection

BANTAY KALIKASAN ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE
ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

For successfully establishing a medium where the general public can phone in their environmental grievances and actively participate in the protection, rehabilitation, and development of the environment.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Public Affairs: Environment Protection

PET RECYCLING PROJECT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
San Miguel Packaging Products

For supporting the government's solid waste management efforts by establishing the first bottle-to-bottle recycling project in Asia and implementing a successful nationwide collection program for its optimum utilization.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Program/Project Directed at a Specific Stakeholder: Youth

AYALA YOUNG LEADERS CONGRESS 2004
Ayala Foundation, Inc.

For establishing a venue where the country's most outstanding student leaders can network with their peers, hone their leadership skills and nurture their commitment to integrity, idealism and nationalism to prepare them for their role as tomorrow's leaders.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PR Program/Project in support of Marketing, Advocacy, Corporate Image

HALLMARK FOR L. I. F. E. (YEAR 8)
Filstar Distributors Corporation / Buensalido & Associates Public Relations

For successfully embarking on a fund-raising campaign through the sale of Hallmark Christmas cards to benefit young leukemia patients and creating awareness of the disease among the general public.

40th ANVIL AWARDS

A Tribute to Excellence

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines this year celebrates the 40th Anvil Awards, an annual event which has become a robust institution after four decades of colorful existence.

Over the years, the Anvil has gained tremendous prestige that it is dubbed the "Oscar" of public relations. The quality of the winning entries, the standards for selection, the reputation of the Board of Jurors, and the development and growth of PR, both as a profession and practice, are among the major factors that led to its acceptance and popularity.

The competition is conducted annually by the PRSP to give recognition to outstanding public relations programs or projects that are clearly identified with public interest and have a lasting impact and value.

There are two main categories: Institutional and Corporate PR Programs and Tools of Public Relations. Under these are several sub-categories by which entries are classified and judged.

There are also four award categories: The Anvil Award of Merit, The Anvil Award of Excellence, The Bronze Anvil Award and The Grand Anvil Award

For the 40th Anvil Awards, a group of 13 respectable professionals in the field of Mass Media, arts, and public service -- all with solid reputations for being uncompromising in their respective vocations -- spent weeks last January, individually going over 70 entries to decide which would deserve the most coveted Anvil.

They then convened at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel last February 3. The result of their deliberation showed their

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ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PR Program/Project in support of Marketing, Advocacy, Corporate Image

UNCOVERING LIFE-KISS GOODBYE TO BREAST CANCER ART EXHIBIT/AUCTION
Avon Cosmetics, Inc.

For embarking on a successful fund-raising and public awareness campaign to highlight the importance of early detection and constant vigilance and show the victorious faces of breast cancer survivors.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Publication: Annual Report

AYALA GROUP OF COMPANIES' 2003 ANNUAL REPORTS
Ayala Corporation

For the outstanding production of unified annual reports of the Ayala group of companies with this year's theme on "partnerships" to give emphasis to the valuable business and community relationships they have cultivated throughout the years.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCEL

Internal Publication:

KAUNLARAN (San Migue
Publication)
San Miguel Corporation

For the outstanding product
publication that caters to the
communication needs of a
as San Miguel Corporation

Awards of Merit

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Public Affairs: Civic Consciousness

THE GARBAGE BOOK
Asian Development Bank

For undertaking a successful public awareness campaign that presents the critical garbage situation in Metro Manila and encourages the citizenry into reducing and recycling their waste and help contribute to solid waste management efforts.

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Public Affairs: Arts and Culture

THE AYALA MUSEUM PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN
Ayala Corporation

For its successful publicity campaign for the new Ayala Museum inauguration from July to December 2004; creating awareness of its inaugural exhibits and activities, and in helping instill appreciation for Filipino art and culture.

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Public Affairs: Arts and Culture

THE SHELL NATIONAL STUDENTS ART COMPETITION
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

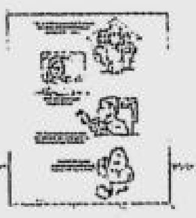
For providing a venue that nurtures the artistic minds of young Filipino artists and encouraging expression of individual thought on varied subjects through the visual arts while at the same time promoting the development of arts and culture in the country.

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Public Affairs: Youth Development/Values Formation

THE CARTOON NETWORK AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
Turner Entertainment Networks Asia Inc. / Perceptions Inc.

For successfully holding in the Cartoon Network cable channel the first and only annual, multi-discipline award program for outstanding boys and girls who excel as leaders, artists and athletes in the National Capital Region and endorsed by the Department of Education.



ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Issues/Crisis/Reputation Management

OPERATION TURN AROUND
(How UCPB handled a media crisis and emerged with glowing reputation)
Agatep Associates, Inc. / United Coconut Planters Bank

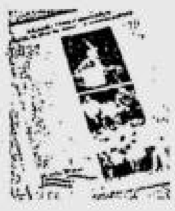
For successfully reversing negative perceptions on UCPB's recapitalization program and rebuilding its public image as a stronger and more competitive institution with a new and revitalized organization.

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Program/Project Directed at Specific Stakeholder: Community

GLOBE BRIDGING COMMUNITIES
Globe Telecom, Inc.

For the improvement of youth, education and community development in the targeted barangays where its business operates. More than just providing communication facilities, it brings Globe where the communities need it most.



ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Program/Project Directed at Specific Stakeholder: Community

TUBIG PARA SA BARANGAY
Manila Water Company, Inc.

For establishing a fast track program to improve water service delivery and making potable water more affordable to Metro Manila's 1.6 million urban poor people.

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Program/Project Directed at Specific Stakeholder: Customers

SMART PADALA
DDB Philippines

For successfully launching a public awareness campaign for this first text-based international remittance service for overseas Filipino workers which is cheaper, faster and more secure than traditional door-to-door delivery.

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Program/Project Directed a
Employees & Families

LAKAD MO, PANGARAP K
The Knowledge Channel Fo

For successfully building e
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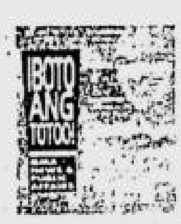

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ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

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The 40th Anvil Awards Committee

The year just past was a colorful one for the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. Amidst the momentary confusion in the industry, entries of all hues and shapes still came in for the 40th Anvil Awards. Their creative quality continued to astound what with their meaningful and substantive content. For this, we salute the participants.

Of particular significance is the perceptible focus of many entries on programs and tools of public relations that seek to build and enhance corporate accountability, governance and transparency for their companies and clients. Just a few years ago, Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR, was a catchphrase - a novelty that many companies and institutions found cute enough to include in their annual reports, but had little idea of in terms of the form of commitment it really entailed. Today, CSR is a reality which many Philippine companies wholeheartedly embrace. More importantly, it is a movement which is slowly transforming itself into something more enduring in terms of sustaining the environment, the community and the values from which a company derives its growth. Welcome ladies and gentlemen, to the age of sustainable development.

We are excited to be present in this era where many companies display great concern for fellowmen, for environment, and for country- cast in the temperament of the time and contemporary issues and developments, and giving hope for a better world for us to live in.

Such concerns, and the entries in general, show the power and influence of the public relations profession, the significant role it is playing in our lives, and, to a great extent, the grasp and capability of our PR practitioners.

Our sincere thanks to the board of judges for their patience and dedication, and all those who have contributed in every way possible to the staging of this annual event.

Thank you to this year's participants, and congratulations to the winners.

Joel D. Lacsamana
Chairperson
40th Anvil Awards
Manila Water Company

Dulce Festin-Baybay
Co-chairperson
40th Anvil Awards
ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

Joel D. Lacsamana
Chairperson
40th Anvil Awards
Manila Water

Dulce Festin-Baybay
Co-chairperson
40th Anvil Awards
ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

Rita R. Festin
Asian Development Bank

Manny A. Gutierrez
DDB Philippines

Butch S. Raquel
GMA Network, Inc.

Ritzi Villarico Ronquillo
Manila Electric Company

Faly B. Rosales
Landbank of the Philippines

Juris Umali-Soliman
Office of the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo

Edgar U. Timbungco
San Miguel Corporation

Eduardo S. Alcaraz
United Laboratories, Inc.

Bert P. Pasquin, APR
San Miguel Corporation

Roel S. Ramirez, APR
De La Salle University - Dasmariñas
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

The Pub

Following
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Hotel Inte
The Anvil
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The PRSP
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PRSP wa
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unity as a
People.

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apparent commitment to excellence.

r grading the entries, a cut off was set which would receive at least a merit

eir deliberation, the judges for the PR nanimous in looking for those that ive in both form and content. They es that had distinctive impact. he PR Programs, the judges looked h creative concepts that were out of They also gave high marks to those ertly implemented. They were al to programs with benefits that go y addressing the company's basic l goals. 27 of the total number of entries scrutiny. Of the 19 entries in the PR y, only five were given Awards of nd four Merit awardees. Of the 51 PR Programs category, seven were ellence awardees and 11 Merit

audit and accounting firm of n and Araullo were on hand to assist rom among the excellence awardees, sen worthy of the Bronze Anvil - the k and Ginto. Ayala Corporation's e Filipino that marked the 70th Anniversary, bagged the Grand

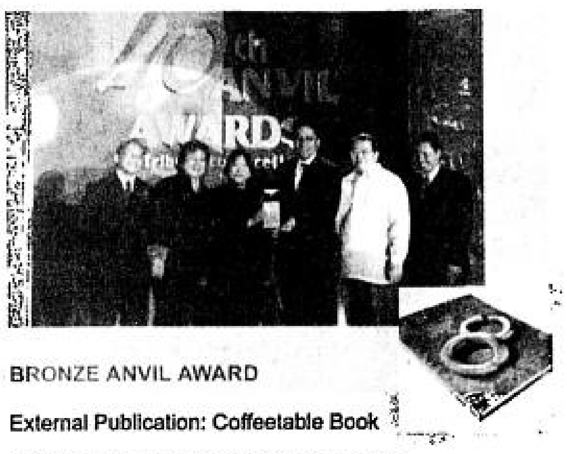
GRAND ANVIL AWARD

Special Events

CELEBRATING THE FILIPINO: AYALA'S 170™ ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Ayala Corporation

In honor of the Filipino and his creativity that helped shape Ayala what it is today. The company has diversified into banking and finance, real estate, commercial development, telecommunications, utilities and infrastructure, automotives, electronics and information technology and has made significant contribution to the country's history, heritage and culture.

Through peacetime and adversity, Ayala has been firm in its faith and confidence in the Filipino and his talent, creativity, and hard work. It celebrated its place in history on an event theme based not on the country's phenomenal growth but in its unwavering faith, unyielding strength and continuously evolving talent of the Filipino then, now and tomorrow.



BRONZE ANVIL AWARD

External Publication: Coffeetable Book

GINTO: HISTORY WROUGHT IN GOLD
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas / Studio 5 Designs, Inc.

The book brings an awareness and appreciation of the Gold Collection of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as an important legacy from a pre-colonial golden age and helps instill a strong sense of national identity from a shared glorious heritage.

BRONZE ANVIL AWARD

External Publication: Coffeetable Book

THE GARBAGE BOOK
Asian Development Bank

The book presents the metropolis' critical garbage situation in a highly graphic photo-based coffeetable book, with powerful images of waste, poverty, and children relegated to the waste heaps of Metro Manila. The key message that there is a looming garbage crisis has been effectively conveyed by the book and supports government efforts in solid waste management.

LENCE

Corporate

on of a corporate internal ighly-diversified conglomerate such or its 26,000 employees.

ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Exhibition

THE MARCO POLO EXHIBIT
National Geographic Channel / Agatep Associates Inc.

For the outstanding production of the exhibit which presents ancient China's places, peoples and cultures by showcasing photographs of NGC ace photographer Michael Yamashita during his 2-year adventure retracing Marco Polo's tracks.

ANVIL AWARD OF RECOGNITION

Annual Report

AYALA UNIFIED ANNUAL REPORTS
Ayala Group of Companies

For consistently winning the Award of Excellence in the Annual Report Category for seven years.

Specific Stakeholder:

O
undation Inc.

mployee goodwill and employees of the Lopez Group to t while at the same time raising funds for the

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

Internal Publication

AYALA NOW
Ayala Foundation Inc. / Filipinas Heritage Library

For the outstanding production of the corporate newsletter of the Ayala group of companies that fosters a sense of corporate unity and identity among the diverse and far-flung members of the country's largest business conglomerate.

AWARD OF MERIT

m/Project in support of cy/Institutional Advertising/Advertorial

) ANG TOTOO
Network Inc.

cessfully undertaking an election cy campaign in the 2004 national sible voting and good governance among

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

External Publication: Brochure

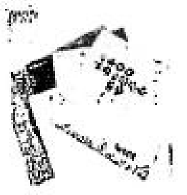
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BROCHURE
San Miguel Corporation

For the outstanding production of the "Doing Well, Doing Good" brochure as a testament to SMC's commitment to social responsibility as to how social development is built into the business framework and decision-making.

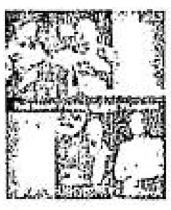
ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

External Publication: Calendar

ZOBEL DAYS 2004 CALENDAR
Globe Telecom, Inc.



For the outstanding production of the calendar which reflects the company's corporate image, and at the same time showcasing the timeless yet evolving nature of communications which is the core service provided by the company.



rt of rtising/Advertorial

on a campaign to rs and highlighting shaping our children's values and

WARD OF MERIT

ion: Annual Report

EXCELLENCE
ilippine Holdings Corporation

outstanding production of the First e Holdings annual report which visualizes formance Excellence" theme, representing e company.

PRSP 2005-2006 Board of Directors taking their oath of office with Sen. Mar Roxas. (L-R) Ma. Amylyn Sison-de Quiros, APR, President; Maloli K. Espinosa, VP-Internal; Butch S. Raquel, VP-External; Rochelle Gamboa-Hilario, Secretary; Angelito G. Doble, Treasurer; Joel D. Lacsamana, Director; Dante M. Velasco, APR, Director; Rocky G. Dimaculangan, Internal Auditor; Advisers - Maximo J. Edralin, Jr., APR, Carlos A. Agatep, APR, Honesto M. Isleta, APR; Jones T. Campos, APR, Ex-Oficio. Not in photo are Ritzi Villarico Ronquillo, Director and Elpi O. Cuna, Jr., Adviser

lic Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP)

a year of challenge, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines enters its 48th year with a new and on a note of optimism and determination. With the success of the 40th Anvil Awards held at the Continental-Manila on March 11, 2005, the PRSP now proceeds with dynamism and commitment. Awards attracted a wide variety of entries, in spite of the unusual situation the Society is going

Board of Directors for 2005-2006, has elected its new President, Ma. Amylyn Sison-De Quiros, APR le Communication. Ms. De Quiros, in her inaugural address, vowed to bring back the pride and e PR profession through the observance of transparency, professionalism, integrity, relevance and . She assured members of the Society of her commitment to restore and ensure unity. Ms. De Quiros her a wealth of experience as a PR practitioner and excellent communicator.

s organized by pioneers and pillars of the PR profession as a ion of support to the "advancement of the welfare of the Filipino people dignified, effective and relevant practice of the art and science of public In the light of current developments, the Society's main thrust is to e practice of the profession by uniting practitioners and responding to one public relations profession, one PRSP." The Society acknowledges n effective tool for progress that benefits the nation and the Filipino

Participating Companies:

ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc Agatep Associates, Inc. Asian Development Bank Asian Formula 3 Corporation Avon Cosmetics, Inc Ayala Corporation Ayala Foundation, Inc. Ayala Land, Inc. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Biomedis, Inc. Buensalido and Associates Public Relations DDB Philippines, Inc. Direct Hit Communication Diwa Learning Systems, Inc Filipinas Heritage Library Filstar Distributors Corporation First Philippine Holdings Corporation Full Circle Communicationsz Ginebra San Miguel Incorporated Globe Telecom, Inc GMA Network, Inc Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc. Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc. Makati Garden Club Manila Electric Company Manila Water Corporation Maverick Communications National Geographic Channel Office of the Presidential Assistant for North Luzon Perceptions, Inc. Philippine Business for Social Progress Philippine Daily Inquirer Philippine National Bank Philippine National Bank Employees Savings & Loan Association Philippine Postal Corporation Pilipinas Makro, Inc. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation Planters Development Bank PNOC-Energy Development Corporation Samsung electronics Philippines Corporation San Miguel Corporation San Miguel Packaging Products Security Bank Skoal Advertising, Inc. Studio 23, Inc Studio 5 Designs, Inc. Syngenta Foundation, Inc. Turner Entertainment Network Asia (TENA), Inc. United Coconut Planters Bank United Laboratories, Inc. Worldcom (Phils.), Inc.

Message

I convey my heartfelt congratulations to the winners in this year's 40th Anvil Awards, as well as the rest of the nominees and participants in this prestigious event. It was truly a valuable and enriching experience to chair the Board of Jurors. We worked hard to come up with the "best of the best" and make its award a truly a tribute to excellence.

Our collective efforts paid off as we now present this years Anvil awardees for excellence in public relations (PR) institutional/corporate programs and tools. They are undoubtedly great models of outstanding corporate social responsibility and exceptional values innate to Filipinos.

My warmest felicitations also go to the officers and members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), especially to the Awards Committee. I salute all of them for genuinely serving the public interest as they advocate the virtues of transparency, professionalism, integrity, relevance and excellence into the Public Relations profession.

I am confident that through the Anvil Awards, PRSP will continue to advance the welfare of the Filipino people through dignified, effective and relevant practice of public relations.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

MAR ROXAS
Senator, Republic of the Philippines
Chairman, Board of Jurors

40th Anvil Awards

Board of Jurors

Hon. Joseph Ace H. Durano
Secretary
Department of Tourism

Hon. Corazon Juliano-Soliman
Secretary
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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Executive & Artistic Director
San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts

Ms. Rina Jimenez-David
Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer

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ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

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Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines

Atty. Melvyn S. Martin
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President & CEO
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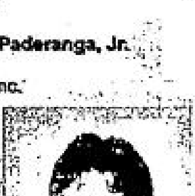

Mr. Vergel O. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility

Dr. Nicanor G. Tiongson
Dean
UP College of Mass Communication

Mr. Leonides C. Valencia, APR
Past President
Public Relations Society of the Philippines

ABS CBN artonedesign Ayala GMA GLOBE TELECOM Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation Punongbayan & Araullo

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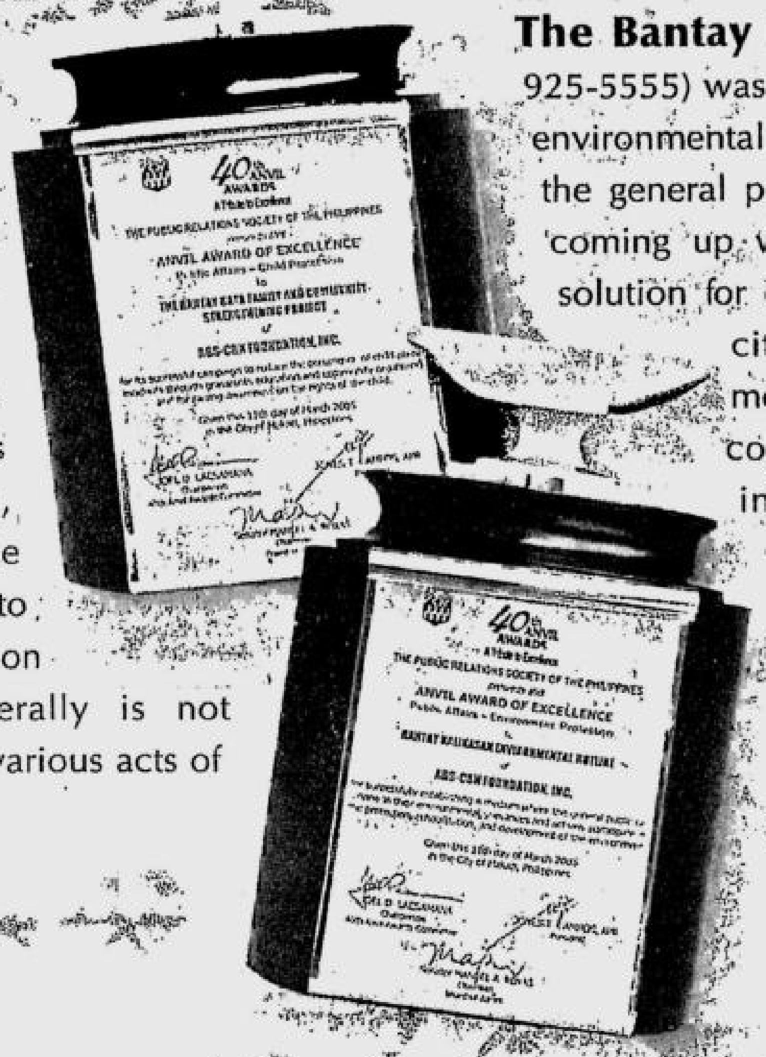
ABS•CBN BANTAY BATA 163

ABS•CBN BANTAY KALIKASAN

We share this honor with our
Kapamilya - Donors, Partners, Stakeholders
who made it all possible for us to achieve these
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

The Family and Community Strengthening Project for the Protection of Children (FCSP) is an undertaking of the Bantay Bata 163 Program of ABS-CBN Foundation. It was developed to complement the other components of the Bantay Bata 163 Program and ultimately prevent the occurrence of child abuse incidents through community education, empowerment and organizing the grassroots level. The basic objective is to raise the awareness of the community on the rights of the child, which generally is not acknowledged and accepted, leading to various acts of cruelty.



The Bantay Kalikasan Hotline (925-3333 or 925-5555) was primarily created to address different environmental violations / grievances reported by the general public, with the ultimate objective of coming up with an appropriate and sustainable solution for each case. It aims to fully empower citizens by providing a complete medium, the HOTLINE, where they could call and give "first-hand information" on environmental concerns. On its 5th year now, the **HOTLINE** already facilitated 401 cases and helped in the solving of 240 cases.

HERE'S TO A BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN...
THROUGH BANTAY BATA, THROUGH BANTAY KALIKASAN.
MARAMING, MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

Manila Water

Sa East Zone*, tuloy-tuloy ang agos ng buhay.

'Yan ay dahil naging maagap at masipag ang Manila Water, isang Ayala company at concessionaire ng MWSS. Taong 1997 pa lang, sinimulan na ang mga hakbang upang masiguradong ang water supply ay laging sapat.

Una, naglaan ang Manila Water ng P19 bilyon para sa isang 5-year plan na mag-aayos hindi lamang ng mga sira't butas-butas na tubo ng tubig. Kasama rin dito ang pagpapalit at paglalagay ng makabagong water pipes.

At sa pag-ayos pa lang ng mga leaks, nakakaipon pa sila ng 350 million liters ng tubig per day. Katumbas ito ng dami ng tubig na ginagamit ng 350,000 pamilya sa isang araw.

Bukod dito, patuloy na naghahanap at nagde-develop ang Manila Water ng mga bagong pagkukunan ng tubig.

Kaya naman tag-ulan man o tag-araw, sa mga taga-East Zone, tuloy-tuloy ang agos ng tubig...at buhay.

* Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, malaking bahagi ng Quezon City, San Andres at Sta. Ana sa Manila. Kasama rin dito ang San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, at Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, San Mateo at Montalban sa Rizal.

Please visit our website: http://www.manilawater.com

Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of Public Relations

40th
ANVIL
AWARDS

1. Conduct our professional way of life with the interest of the public as our basic and primary guide;

2. Conduct our activities in full accordance with the accepted standards of trust, objectivity, accuracy and good taste;

3. Uphold the rule of law and the dictates of public order, public policy, moral and good customs;
4. Help promote the acceptance of social justice;

5. Foster harmonious relationship and establish fair dealings at all times with employers, fellow practitioners and the general and special publics;

6. Protect the interest of our clients or employees by being truthful to our commitments to them, against which shall not represent conflicting or competing interests, unless full consent is given by all interested parties with full disclosure of facts;

7. Refuse all obligations which will hamper the effective and efficient performance of our duties to our clients and publics;

8. Adhere closely to the established guidelines and ethics for the use of Mass Media or any other channels of communications;

9. Safeguard the confidence of our present and former clients or employers by keeping trade secrets or other information of similar nature, unless their disclosure is ordered by a competent government authority by reason of national security or public policy;

10. Refuse any form of valuable consideration for a service, involving a profession, from anyone other than our clients or employers, even if it does not involve conflicting interests, unless full consent is given by all interested parties;

11. Avoid, at all times pursuing any activity prejudicial to the interest of the Society or inconsistent with the dictates of this code; and

12: Uphold the accepted principle of ethics that the end does not justify the means.

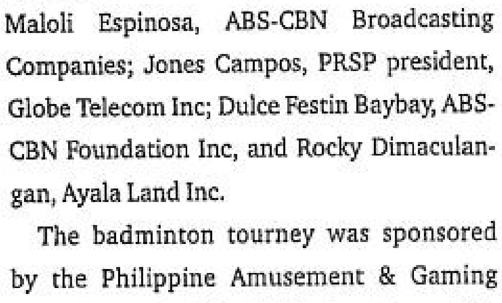
Badminton tourney: Smashing success

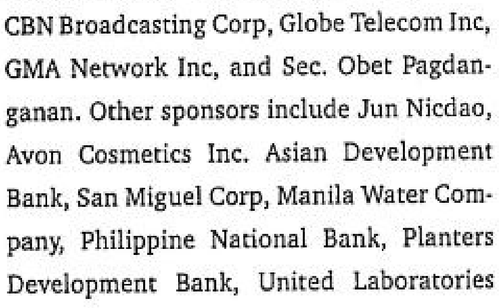
1st PRSP Badminton Cup

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines recently staged the 1st PRSP Badminton Cup at The Zone Badminton Courts in Makati City. Shown are PRSP officers and directors (from left) Joel Lacsamana, Manila Water Company; Angel Doble, Philippine National Bank; Rochelle Hilario, Asian Terminals Inc; Maloli Espinosa, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Companies; Jones Campos, PRSP president, Globe Telecom Inc; Dulce Festin Baybay, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc, and Rocky Dimaculangan, Ayala Land Inc.

The badminton tourney was sponsored by the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp (Pagcor), The Philippine Star, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp, Globe Telecom Inc, GMA Network Inc, and Sec. Obet Pagdanganan. Other sponsors include Jun Nicdao, Avon Cosmetics Inc. Asian Development Bank, San Miguel Corp, Manila Water Company, Philippine National Bank, Planters Development Bank, United Laboratories Inc, The Manila Times, and Anna Banana Shirts.

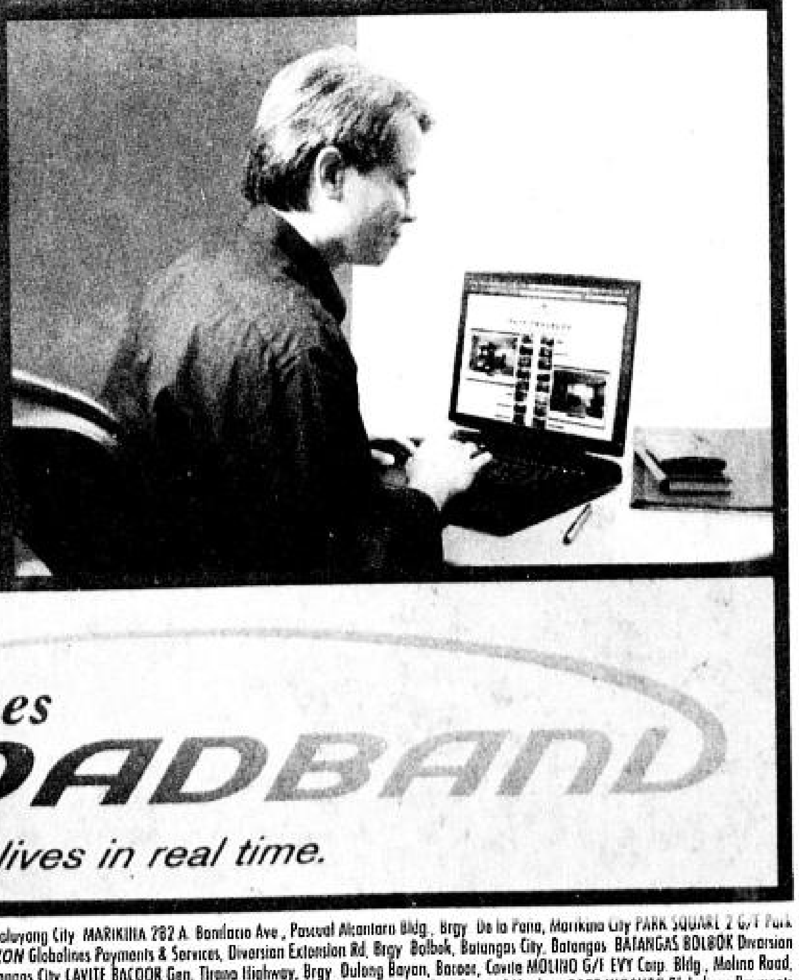
The 1st PRSP Badminton Cup was attended by active members of the society, among them: ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp, Asian Terminals, Ayala Corp, Ayala Land Inc, Globe Telecom Inc, Manila Water Company, Manila Times, Manila Electric Company, Philippine Star, Philippine National Bank, Pagcor, and San Miguel Corp. Tournament organizer is Badminton Philippines, publisher of the only badminton magazine in the country.





SHOWN above are the Meralco and Pagcor teams, the champion and runner-up respectively in the corporate cluster with Jones T. Campos, president of PRSP and Maloli K. Espinosa, director in charge, 1st PRSP Badminton Tourney.

SHANGHAI
NEW DELHI
HONG KONG
MANILA
BANGALORE
GROUP OFFICES
PROJECT LOCATIONS



"By switching to Globelines Broadband, we don't have to deal with frequent interruptions anymore. Big design files get to our clients around the globe without delay."

Architect Herbert Gabales
Adrianse Group

It's critical for an Interior Design and Project Management firm like the Adrianse Group to have a reliable internet connection that allows them to offer quality services and designs at par with their global counterparts.

With Globelines Broadband, they find it easier to exchange files and information with their clients in Singapore, Hongkong, Canada and the US. Because of their uninterrupted connection, they can quickly coordinate with their offices in various parts of Asia, upload websites for ongoing projects, and even surf the world wide web for potential clients, all in real time.

By availing of a Globelines Broadband business package, the Adrianse Group gets connected at the highest speeds, 24 hours a day at a very affordable price.

This just goes to show that with Globelines Broadband, flourishing businesses like the Adrianse Group can become globally competitive.

For inquiries and subscription, call our Customer Care Hotline at (02) 919-8888 in Luzon or (032) 410-8888 in Visayas & Mindanao, or visit our Globelines Payments and Services Centers listed below.

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Extreme 384	₱3,000	384 Kbps	5
Extreme 512	₱5,000	512 Kbps	5
Extreme 768	₱7,500	768 Kbps	5
Extreme 1mb	₱10,000	1 Mbps	5

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INTERIOR DESIGN • PROJECT MANAGEMENT
and Globelines BROADBAND
Partners in enriching real lives in real time.

GLOBELINES PAYMENTS AND SERVICES CENTERS *METRO MANILA* GT PLAZA Upper G/F, Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, cor. Pioneer & Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City MARIKINA 282 A. Bonifacio Ave., Pascual Alcantara Bldg., Brgy. De la Paña, Marikina City PARK SQUARE 2 G/F Park Square Bldg., Ayala Center, Makati City SM MEGAMALL 4th level, Bldg. B, Cyberzone Area, SM Megamall, Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City *SOUTH LUZON* Globelines Payments & Services, Diversion Extension Rd, Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City, Batangas BATANGAS BOLBOK Diversion Extension Rd, Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City, Batangas LEMERY CJ Bldg., Independencia St., Lemery, Batangas FIESTA MALL LIPA G/F Fiesta World Mall, Lipa, Batangas City CAVITE BACOOR Gen. Tirona Highway, Brgy. Dulong Bayan, Bacoor, Cavite MOLINO G/F EVY Corp. Bldg., Molino Road, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite SM DASMARIÑAS 2nd Level, SM City Dasmariñas, Governor's Drive 1, Brgy. Sampaloc, Dasmariñas, Cavite GEN. TRIAS ORIENTAL MINDORO CALAPAN G/F Ferraren Bldg., M. Leuterio St., San Vicente, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro *EAST VISAYAS* Globelines Payments & Services, 22 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City BOHOL TAGBILARAN Door 5 EB Gallares Bldg., Carlos P. Garcia Ave., Tagbilaran City TUBIGON Poac Occidental, Poblacion, Tubigon, Bohol UBAY IF Reyes St., Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol CEBU AYALA CENTER G/F South Entrance, Paseo Marina, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City BOGO Fernan St., Bogo, Cebu CARCAR P. Nellas St., Poblacion 3, Carcar, Cebu ELIZABETH MALL 2nd level, Elizabeth Mall, cor. Santiangko and N. Bacalso Sts., Cebu City MANDAUE G/F Khuan's Bldg., National Highway, Ibabao, Mandaue City PARDO Prince Warehouse Club, Bulacao, Pardo, Cebu City SM CEBU 2nd level SM City Cebu, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City TOLEDO 2/F Resbel and Sons Bldg., P. Rodriguez St., Toledo City LEYTE ORMOC MFT Bldg., Real St., Ormoc City TACLOBAN 22 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City SOUTHERN LEYTE MAASIN Maasin Port Terminal Commercial Complex, Demeterio St., Agbao, Maasin City *WEST VISAYAS* Globelines Payments & Services, cor. 27th & Lacson Sts., Mandalangan, Bacolod City AKLAN KALIBO Arch. Reyes St., Kalibo, Aklan ANTIQUE SAN JOSE T. Fornier St., San Jose, Antique CAPIZ ROXAS cor. P. Gomez & Legaspi Sts., Roxas City PANAY GAISANO ILOILO 2/F Gaisano City, La Paz, Iloilo City POTOTAN Teresa Magbanua St., Pototan, Iloilo NEGROS OCCIDENTAL BACOLOD cor. 27th & Lacson Sts., Mandalangan, Bacolod City HINIGARAN 2/F cor. Rizal & Aguinaldo Sts., Hinigaran, Negros Occidental SAGAY ATB Bldg., Maranon St., Poblacion II, Sagay City, Negros Occidental NEGROS ORIENTAL DUMAGUETE G/F Sol y Mar Bldg., cor. Rizal Blvd. & San Juan Sts., Dumaguete City TANJAY Kyle's Foodshoppe, Magallanes St., Tanjay City

GSM ASSOCIATION
AWARDS 2005
GLOBE G-CASH
BEST MOBILE MESSAGING SERVICE

A GREAT THING MADE EVEN BETTER

GLOBE G-CASH

MORE SERVICES, MORE PARTNERS

From payments to purchases, international remittance to domestic money transfer, G-Cash has ignited our imagination to no end. Today, we evolve it even further. Now you can make donations, pay for various government services and buy load credits via G-Cash. Soon, rural folk can receive and pay their loans with this service.

All these, together with the honor of being chosen as the **Best Mobile Messaging Service** by the GSM Awards 2005 in France, we offer to the Filipinos. With the help of a growing number of partners, we continue our commitment to find new and better ways to make lives easier and strengthen the ties that bind us all.

G-Cash. Gawang Pilipino. Para sa Pilipino. Hinahangaan sa buong mundo.

PARAMI NA NANG PARAMING PARTNERS

G-CASH PAYMENTS VIA TEXT

Pay for goods and services via G-Cash. Now accepted at these establishments: Burger King • Max's (Delivery) • National Bookstore • Mercury Drug • Sure Seats • ABS-CBN Interactive • E-2-Door • Superferry

New Partners: Shakey's (Dine-in & Take-out in selected outlets & Delivery) • Jollibee (Delivery) Goldilocks (selected branches) • Executive Optical Gold's Gym (pay for entrance fee) • Fully Booked Bibliarch • BIR (business registration renewal) Filipino Doctors Health Alliance • Urban Spa • UP Engineering Research & Dev't Foundation • Westin Philippine Plaza (room reservation) • Manson Drug (selected branches) • Montage • Sketch Books Chris Sports Equipment • Ortigas Home Depot

G-CASH INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE

The fast and secure way of sending remittance via text. Friends and families abroad can go to any of these partners to exchange their cash to G-Cash: IRemit Global Remittance (Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Australia, UK, Taiwan) • Gen-Ex Cargo (Hong Kong) Fareast Express Remittance Ltd. (Hong Kong, UK) CGNCOM S.r.l. (Italy) • RFC Ltd. (Hong Kong)

New Partners: Philippine Tropical Express (Canada) Global Peso Express (Canada)

G-CASH DOMESTIC MONEY TRANSFER

Now you can send G-Cash anywhere in the Philippines through these partners: Globe Telecom Business Centers Globelines Payments and Services Centers • the Hub Cebuana Lhuillier • LBC • Prime Asia Pawn and Jewelry Shop, Inc. • Tambunting MTO Pawnshop • 7-11 (CASH IN only)

New Partners: Aboitiz One, Inc. (2GO Cash Delivery) SM Supermalls • Wealth Bank • Tambunting JPT Pawnshop • Metro Gaisano

PARAMI NA NANG PARAMING MGA SERBISYO

LOAN PAYMENTS VIA G-CASH

With the help of the Rural Bankers Assoc. of the Phils. (RBAP), soon it will be easier and more convenient for the rural folk to get and pay their loans without traveling long distances.

CHARITY CONTRIBUTIONS VIA G-CASH

You can now make donations or contributions to UNICEF, RED CROSS and the PHIL. SPORTS COMMISSION via G-Cash.

G-CASH LOAD

With G-Cash, you can now load your own or someone else's cellphone with ease.

SERVICES PAYMENTS VIA G-CASH

Pay for services offered by government agencies like the BIR, and soon Phil-health, without even leaving your home.

GAMING VIA G-CASH

Now you can pay for your RAGNAROK online playing time using G-Cash.

Text G-CASH and send to 2882

Go to any Globe Telecom Business Center, present a valid ID and exchange your cash to G-Cash.

proud to make great things possible for the Filipino

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Ang Bagong Touch Mobile

Globe
HANDYPHONE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

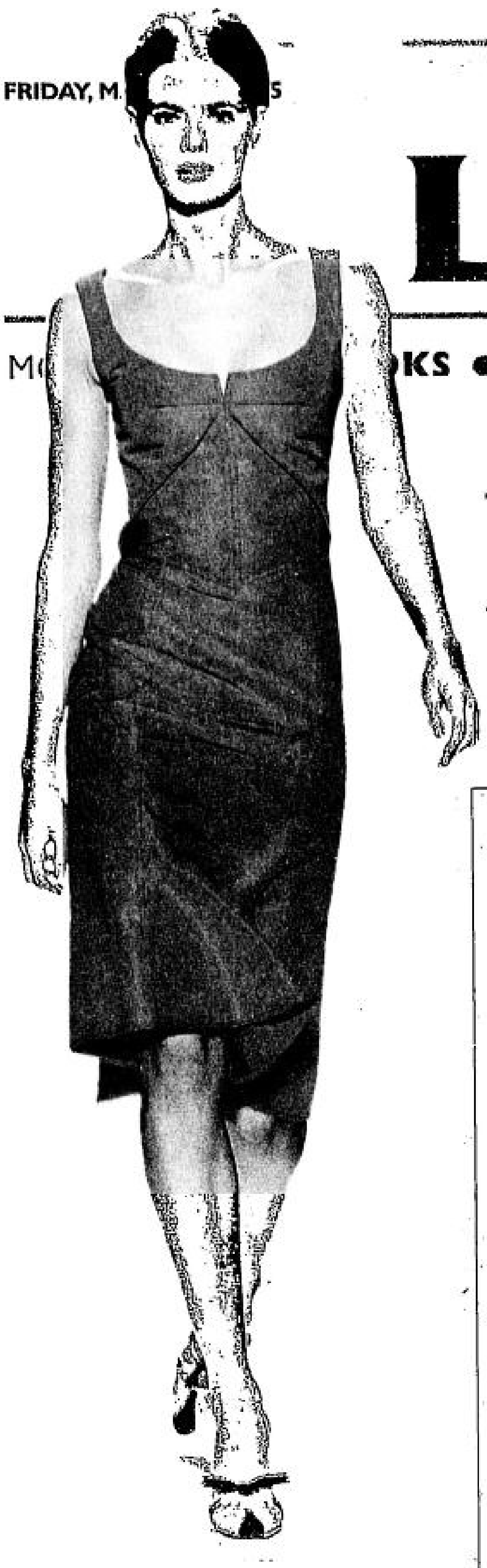
C1

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

P99
Dunkin' Donuts
Rainbow
Choco
Rings

Daytime elegance

Carolina Herrera goes Hollywood dramatic in the colors of semi-precious stones



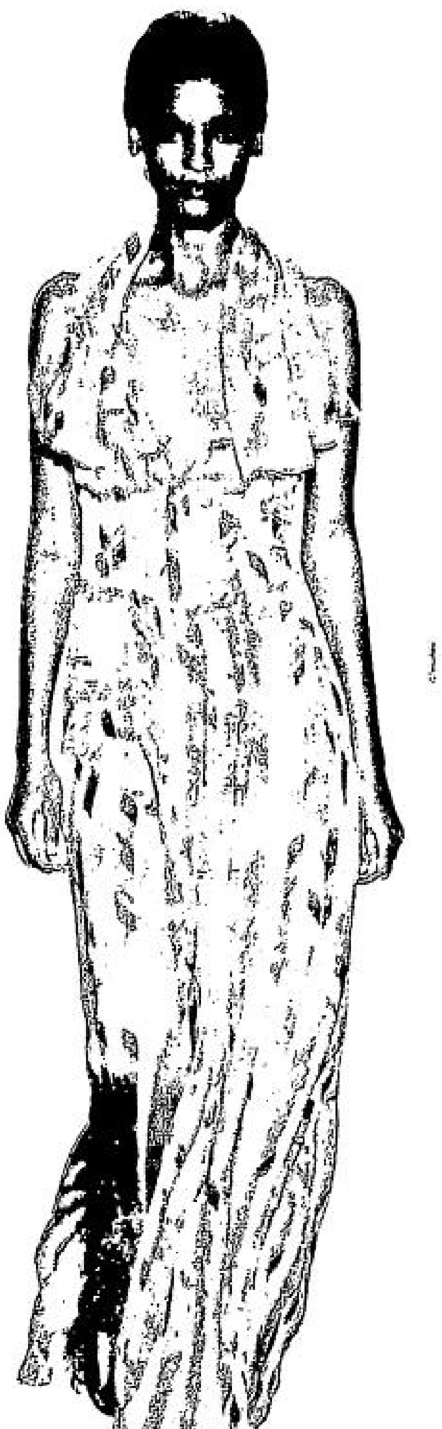
RASPBERRY faille trumpet dress

CAROLINA Herrera's 2005 Fall Collection is inspired by the women of the '40s and their elegant approach to daytime.

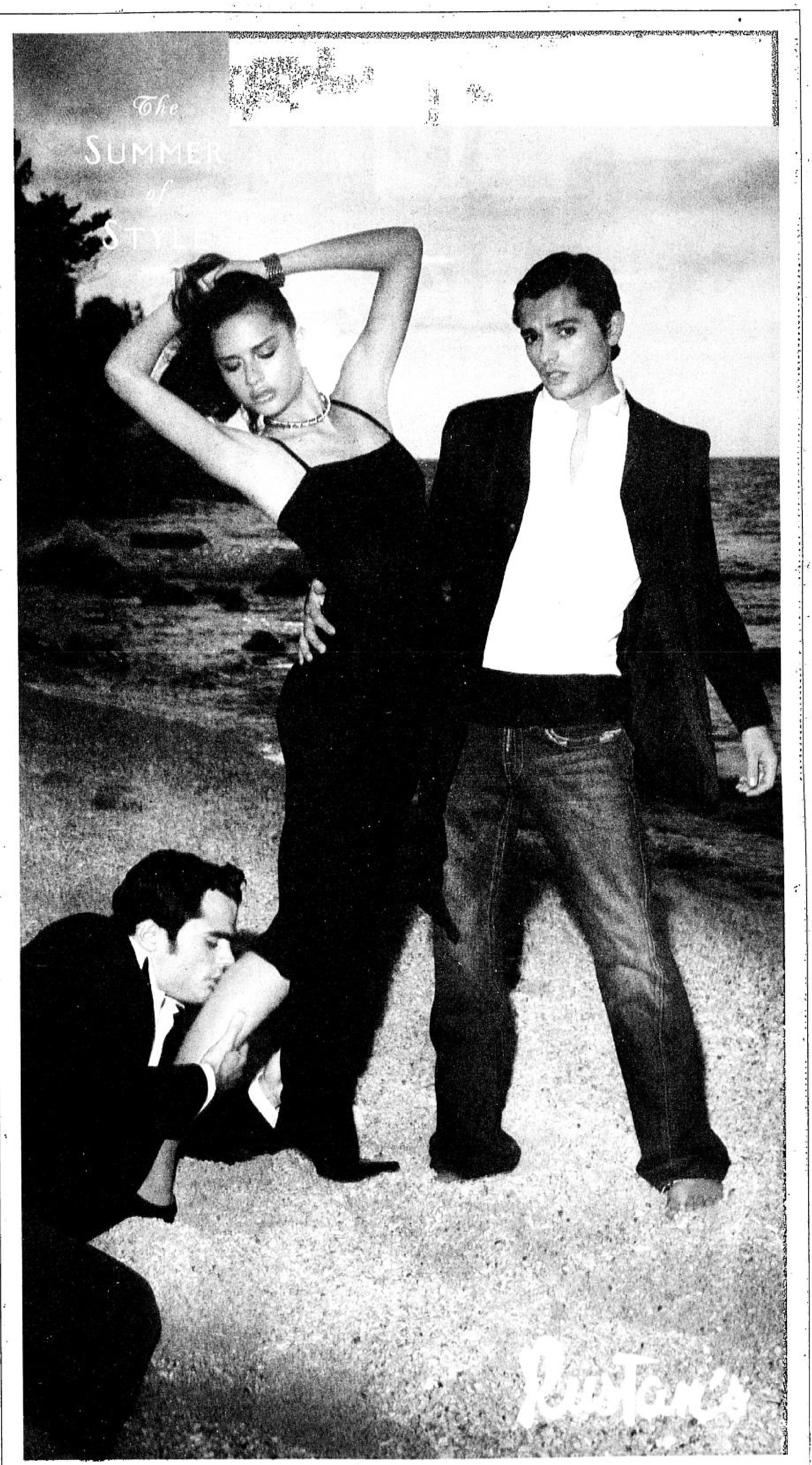
The dramatic shapes of that era are softened and modernized by using lightweight tweeds and geometric chiffon prints. Jackets and coats emphasize the waist, while skirts and dresses combine architectural elements to create volume and movement.

The colors of mimosa, raspberry, violet, blush and charcoal grey are inspired by the semi-precious stones that embellish the collection. In addition to the intricate threadwork, embroideries and beautiful crystal beading, the colors themselves become a focal point due to their intensity and vibrance.

The contrast of furs, semi-precious stones and intense colors with fluid silhouettes and feminine details results in a glamorous and effortless approach to dressing.



MIMOSA compass printed capelet gown



RAJO Laurel

DATE dress by Randy Ortiz

RAJO Laurel

RANDY Ortiz

RAJO Laurel

Skin bliss, after a fashion

Pond's serves up glamour for the fair-skin seekers and other women who simply want to have good, healthy skin

Text by Gem Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

JUDGING by the success of skin-whitening products in the country, it seems what most Filipino women aspire to have these days is "flawless rosy white skin." It begs the question, is fair skin the measure of beauty?

Pond's recently launched its new Skin Whitening Leave-On range at the Ayala Museum.

The event began with a solo performance of world-renowned flamenco dancer Clara Ramona of Centro Flamenco, followed by a brief on-screen presentation showcasing Pond's personality and beauty values that envision empowering women so they can be as beautiful as they want to be.

Perfect moments

For the main event, Randy Ortiz, Rajo Laurel and Dennis Lustico served up unique collections whose themes celebrated a woman's "perfect moments," from the first date to the prom, the debut and the wedding.

Ortiz's presentation of his "first date" collection was like a breath of fresh air. In pleated tops and simple yet elegantly cut dresses all done in chiffon, the models came out in soft curls and pink hues, all ultra-feminine, innocent and sweet.

"The prom" was Laurel's domain. With Rajo, it was like a trip to the set of "Down With Love," with the ladies wearing clothes reminiscent of Renee Zellweger's very '60s allure with a modern twist—taffeta bubble skirts with assorted tops generously embellished with paillettes and sugar beads.

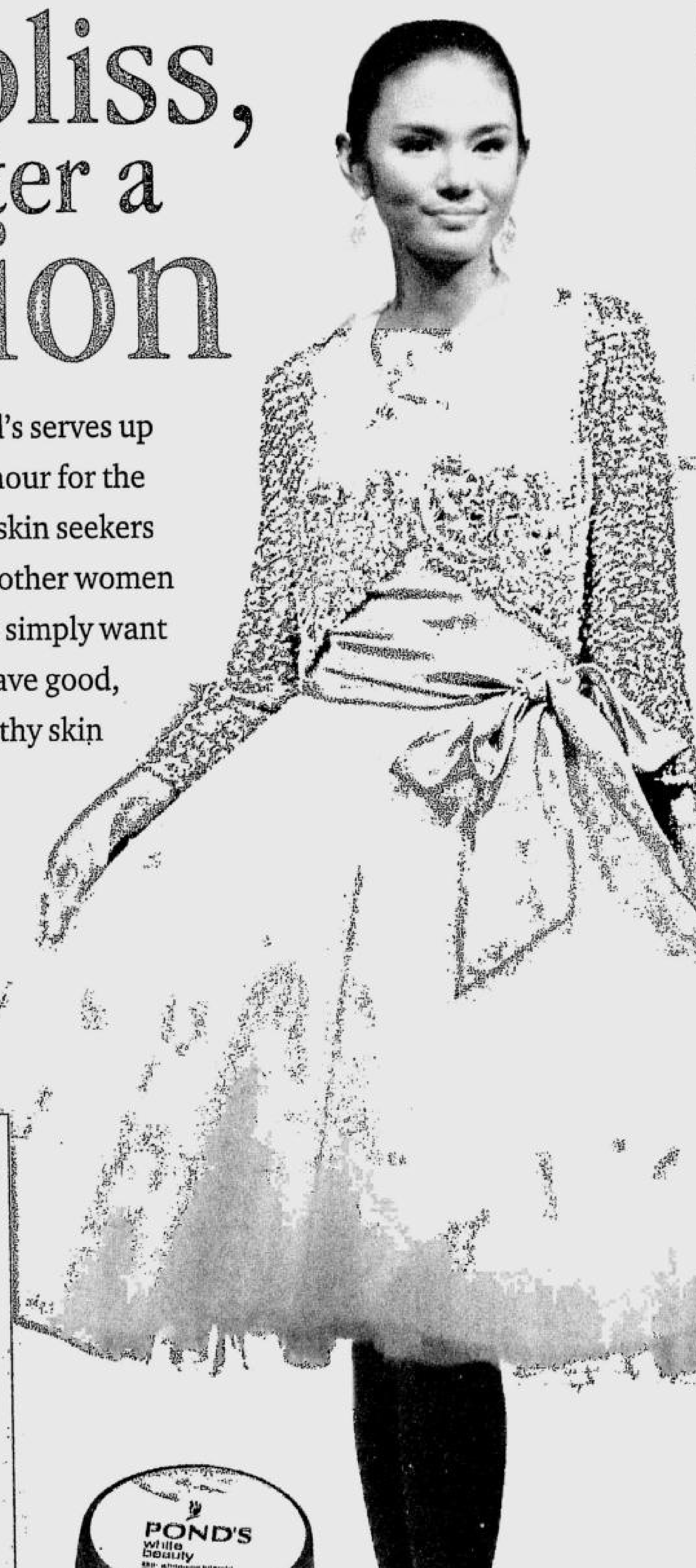
Since I had just seen the Oscars, the memory of the pre-show fashion was all still very fresh in my mind, and that was what I thought upon seeing Lustico's "the Deb's" ball gowns. The days of the bouffant gown, lace and puffed (very frou-frou) sleeves are long dead and gone. Now it's all serpentina and gowns cut close to the body, very much red-carpet glitz and glam.

As expected in the finale, the wedding sampler from the three designers was fabulous. But I have to say that the night's applause went to the newly married supermodel, Maricris Perez, who looked divine in a classic, sophisticated wedding gown by Ortiz.

It was a night of beauty and style. Had I brought a date, it would have almost been a "perfect moment" for me, too. The evening was nice and cool, the atmosphere relaxed, and the guests looked like they enjoyed themselves. It was a good night to find another reason and occasion to celebrate.

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. This may be true regardless of skin color. As I celebrate my brown skin, here's to celebrating beauty however you like it!

DENNIS Lustico, Rajo Laurel and Randy Ortiz


PROM dress by Rajo Laurel

DEBUTANTE gown by Dennis Lustico

POND'S
white beauty
POND'S
white beauty
POND'S
white beauty
POND'S new Skin Whitening Leave-On range

MIMOSA wool coat with lynx trim & charcoal herringbone pants

CHOCOLATE beaded tulle camisole & lamé skirt

GOLD metal embroidered V-Neck dress

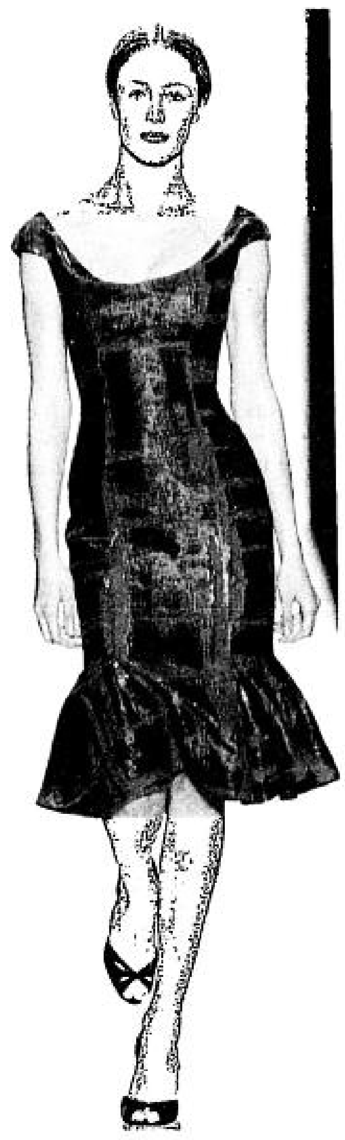
STRIPED organza dress with fluted skirt

LAMÉ dress with mahogany mink trimmed pleats

Daytime elegance

Designer to the stars Carolina Herrera defines the look for Fall 2005

GREY moiré strapless gown



RASPBERRY artwork patterned cocktail dress

LAMÉ gown with crystal embroidery and beaded ribbon neckline

WHITE cotton/tulle shirt and mahogany moiré ball skirt

VIOLET silk jersey draped gown

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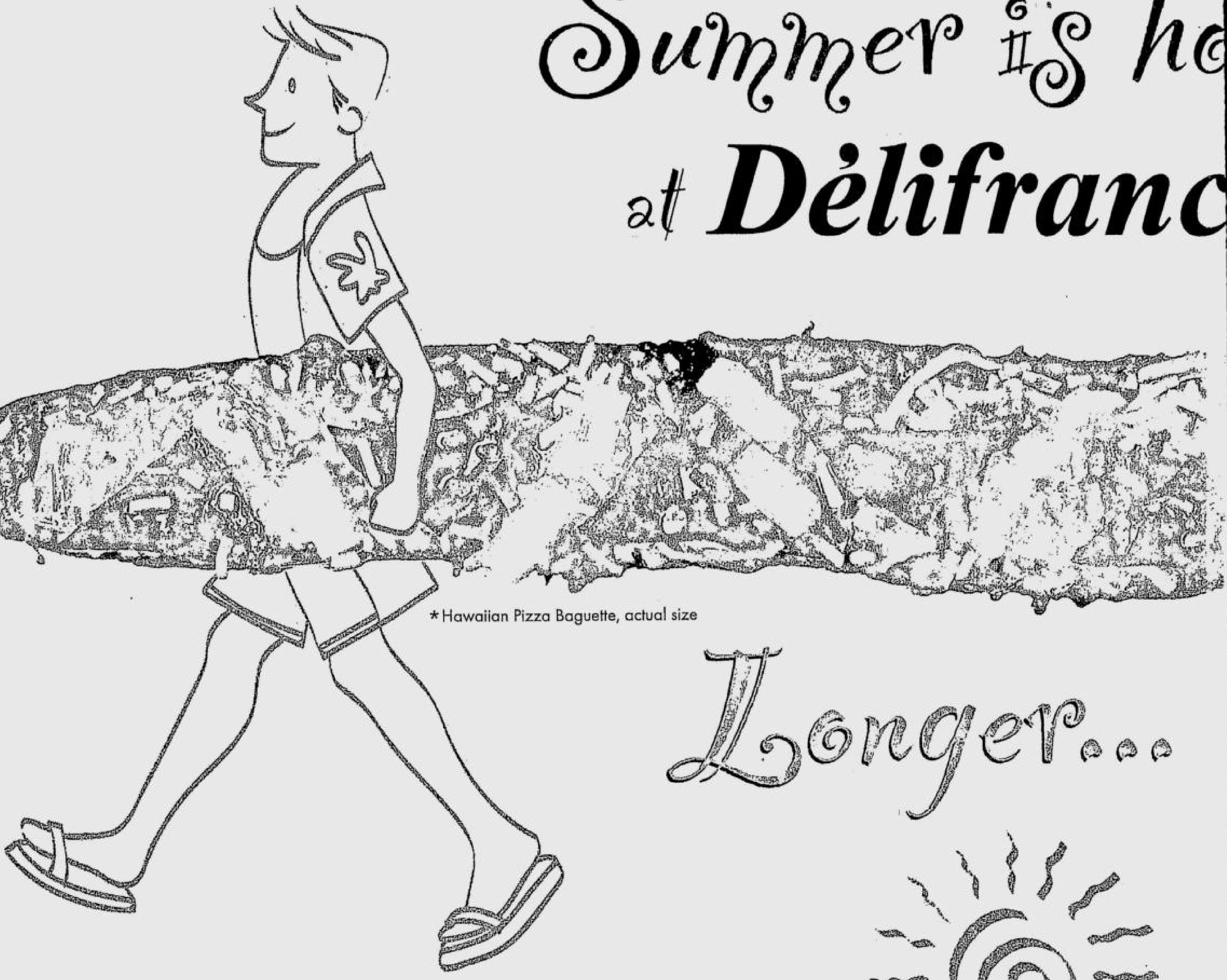
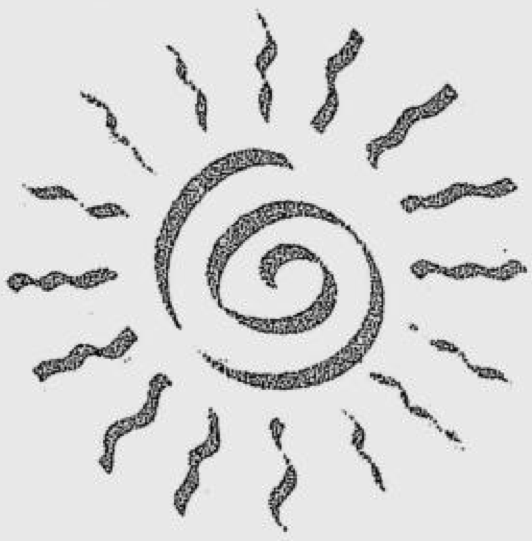


*Hawaiian Pizza Baguette, actual size

Longer...



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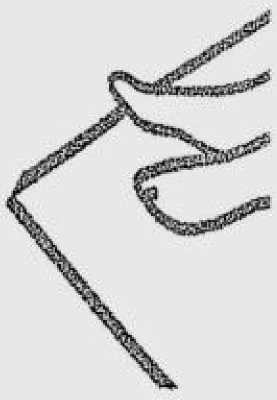

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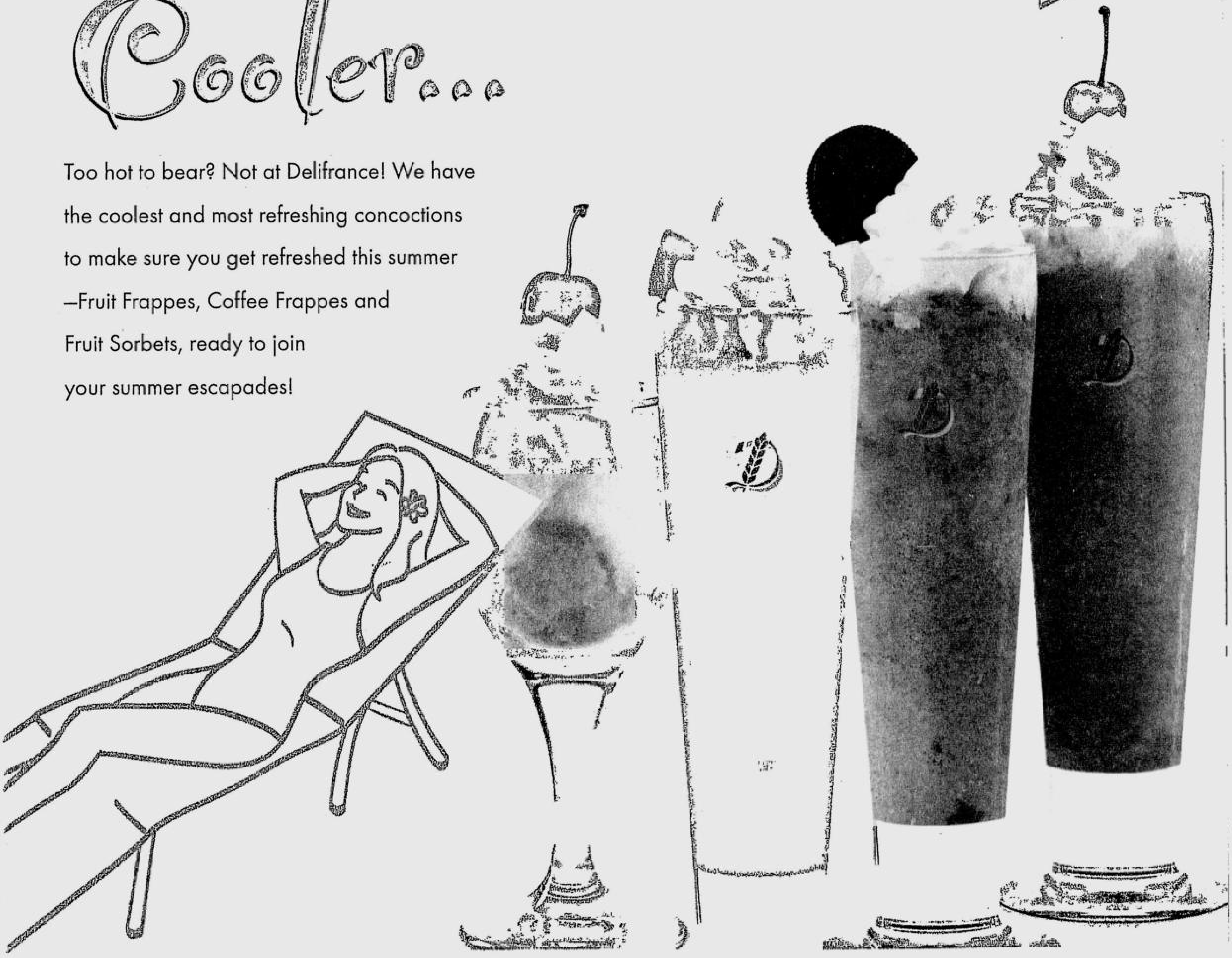

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ALUMNI of Guagua National Colleges high school class 1955 celebrated their golden jubilee with social and cultural activities. In photo are: (front row, from left) Tony Tiongco and Gee Mercado; (standing) Ched Mallari, Lulu Viray, Rhoda Viray, Bellie Borromeo, Mellie Flores, Lourdes Joson, Nor Pineda, Cita Yambot, Pining Dalinguez, Ched Cordero, Lucy Bravo, Artemio Songco, Med Julao, Auring Sarmiento, Cely Roman, Mads Aquino, Tony Lim Fidel Songco, Maning, Lamberto Rivera, Erning Goseco, Dante Juanta, Ado Cervantes and Reming Dimalanta.

THE CORDILLERA Administrative Region Parents Congress was held recently at the Baguio City National High School auditorium. The conference tackled enhancing learning styles, emotional and multiple intelligences, creativity and giftedness of children. In photo are members of the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (from left): Tess Masangkay, Coring Visperas, Elma Donaal, Remedios Taguba, Henry Tenedero, Dominador Rojas Jr., Rosario Cordero and Linda Orduña.

Senakulo at the mall March 20

GOINGS ON

SAMAHANG Nazareno will stage a *senakulo* at 1 p.m., March 20, at Sta. Lucia East. On March 27, SCQ Grand Questor Erich Gancayco will hold a grand fans day.

The first elimination round of Sta. Lucia East's Search for Little Stars 2005 will be held March 30. Application forms are available at the Ad & Promo department.

On March 19, the Star Search for the Ultimate Impersonator will be held. The competition is open to amateur singers, 15 years old and above who can impersonate their favorite singers and perform their favorite songs, complete with costumes. Cash prizes await winners in the grand finals on April 30. Call 6815401 local 109.

CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: Time Management, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., April 2: Handling Stress and Pressure at Work, 1-5 p.m., April 2, Effective Supervisory Skills, May 3, Dumaguete City; Developing Excellent Business Communication Skills, May 4, Dumaguete City; Customer Service that Works, May 5, Plaza Maria Luisa Suites, Dumaguete City. Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

SUMMER workshop. Registration for Supervoice Summer workshops are open to all students. IDs are required for enrollment. Scholarships are available for out-of-school youth. Registration begins March 28 at the Supervoice studio, 2317 Revillen St., Sta. Ana, Manila Registration fee is P100 and fee per session is P50 or a total of P1,000 for 18 sessions. Call 5642667 or text 0917-9377893.

THE MTC Academy in Batangas City holds an open house on April 1 at their campus in N. Dimaano Center, 31 M.H. del Pilar St., Batangas City. The academy is the first and only medical transcription school in the country accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda). Call 43-3007447, 43-7222623, 43-9806985 or 0915-7014422.

SUMMER dance workshop. Regine Tolentino, the "Belly Dancer" herself, together with her friend, Cherie Depano (event coordinator), will hold a three-day dance lesson for kids, teens and adults.

The dance workshop will be held April 11, 13 and 15 at Tolentino's newly renovated dance studio in New Manila, Quezon City.

Tolentino said she would invite some members of Starstruck kids to join the workshop.

Those interested to enroll or their kids can call 9973197 or 9403669, or text 0922-4243286.

Registration is ongoing. As slots are limited, registration will be on a first-come first-serve basis.

MEDITATION course. A Vipassana meditation course is ongoing until March 27 at Sico Farm, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Vipassana meditation, as taught by S.N. Goenka, is a practical life-long technique to help achieve self-awareness, mental purification, and equanimity.

As a meditation technique, Vipassana (literally "seeing things as they really are") is a simple and systematic method of quieting and sharpening the mind through direct self-observation. It helps a person face daily tensions and problems in a calm, peaceful and balanced way.

Vipassana meditation courses are supported solely by voluntary donations. Neither teachers nor the organizers receive any fee for their services. For information,e-mail vipassana_rp@yahoo.com or fax: 6362361. Visit www.dhamma.org.

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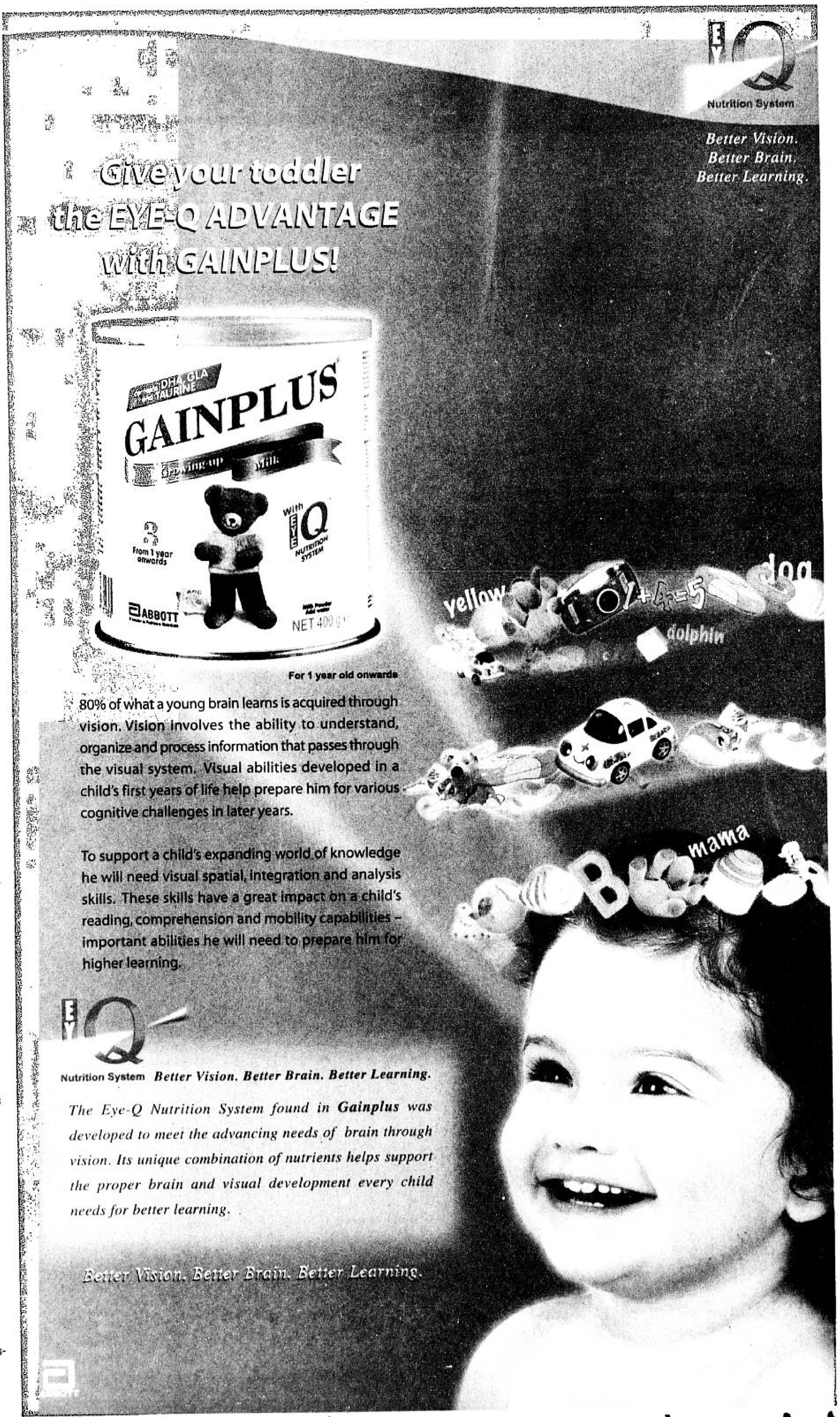
Italian language course. The Philippine Italian Association (PIA) holds a 40-hour Italian language course beginning April 5, every Tuesday and Thursday, 2-4 p.m. This will be held at the PIA secretariat, 2/L, Zeta Bldg., Salcedo Street, Legazpi Village, Makati. Call 8151310.



For 1 year old onwards

80% of what a young brain learns is acquired through vision. Vision involves the ability to understand, organize and process information that passes through the visual system. Visual abilities developed in a child's first years of life help prepare him for various cognitive challenges in later years.

To support a child's expanding world of knowledge he will need visual spatial, integration and analysis skills. These skills have a great impact on a child's reading, comprehension and mobility capabilities – important abilities he will need to prepare him for higher learning.

EYE Q Nutrition System *Better Vision. Better Brain. Better Learning.*

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Handbags come in a dizzying range of colors and graphics or in dainty florals. Linens are enhanced with leather, metal and canvas, and given a rich treatment with flowers and bold geometrics.

Rich antique calf is hand-stitched and cinched, and shaped to fit whatever it is meant to be: sporty slung hobos, buckled totes, clutches and shoppers. Classic New York messenger bags complete the set.

Hit the streets with shoes that flash color and spunk. Distressed leather and crocodile are secured with buckles and raised by wedges and heels that come from flat to sky-high. Different heels are also featured in little fabric numbers textured and treated from metallic peacock to woven raffia and accented with floral embroidery and studded with gems and brass.

The active line of shoes puts premium on comfort and performance while keeping the DKNY flavor.

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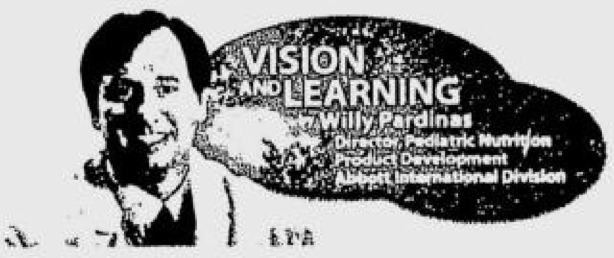

VISION AND LEARNING
Willy Pardinas
Director, Pediatric Nutrition
Product Development
Abbott International Division

Eye-Q
Nutrition System
Better Vision.
Better Brain.
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Your child may be lagging behind in
brain and visual development
and you may not even see it.

80% of what a child perceives, comprehends, and remembers depends on the visual system. The visual system helps us absorb information, understand it, then get it out again so it becomes useful. Getman, a renowned behavioral optometrist, said, "Vision is the dominant mode in the development of intelligence." The more visually efficient a person is, the higher her score on many intelligence tests. Thus, if there should be any visual interference, a child may not reach her maximum potential.

More than 98% of all infants are born with normal and healthy eyes, but not good vision. Vision is developed and its proper development depends on many physiological, environmental, and psychological factors, including disease, infection, fatigue, environmental and emotional stress, attention, attitude, and nutrition. If the visual system is efficient, it will be well-equipped to handle these influencing factors.

Likewise, a baby's brain is still disorganized at birth. To make all the necessary connections for more complex thinking when she grows up, she needs a lot of stimulation from the different senses. This is where the interplay between brain and vision come in. Proper brain development in children is also helped by good nutrition, warm and loving relationships with parents and other people, and positive mental stimulation from birth onwards. These factors make a big difference in children's general development for a lifetime.

A parent's guide to children's learning and vision development

If you notice any of the following behaviors in your child, she may be suffering from a developmental problem that may ultimately affect her learning.

If there is a problem, your doctor is the best person to consult about the possible therapy or treatment program to help

- holds book or object unusually close
- closes one eye or covers eye with hand
- is unable to sit still or cannot stay on a task for long periods
- twists or tilts head toward book or object so as to favor one eye
- is disorganized and frustrated when studying visual information
- turns or tilts head to see
- head is frequently tilted to one side, or one shoulder is noticeably higher
- poor visual/motor skills (often called, "hand-eye coordination")
- problems moving in space, frequently bumps into things or drops things

Remember that everyone is born with the ability to develop good vision, and that there is a critical period for this development to take place: usually during the first several years of life. A person's brain is also shaped the most during the first 10 years of life. Proper visual stimulation helps because it has been proven to produce developmental advantages in children. Children exposed to stimulation activities have a more advanced mental development. They have a higher level of attentiveness, concentration, and curiosity. You can invest in your child's learning by giving her adequate nutrition that supports proper brain growth and visual development.

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For 1 year old onwards

Eye-Q
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Our eyes are the windows through which we see the world. The eyes, and the brain, are vital organs that are so important for nearly every action that we perform in life. In order to function properly, our eyes and brain need a wide array of nutrients. Children, in particular, need the right nourishment to help in the proper development of their brain and vision.

The Eye-Q Nutrition System in **GainPlus** was developed to meet the advancing needs of brain through vision. Its unique combination of nutrients helps support the proper brain and visual development every child needs for better learning. You can also give your preschooler the Eye-Q Advantage with Grow Advance.

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Sources:
www.eye-spy.net, www.visionandlearning.org, www.children-special-needs.org
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/human/pubs/brain_nc.html

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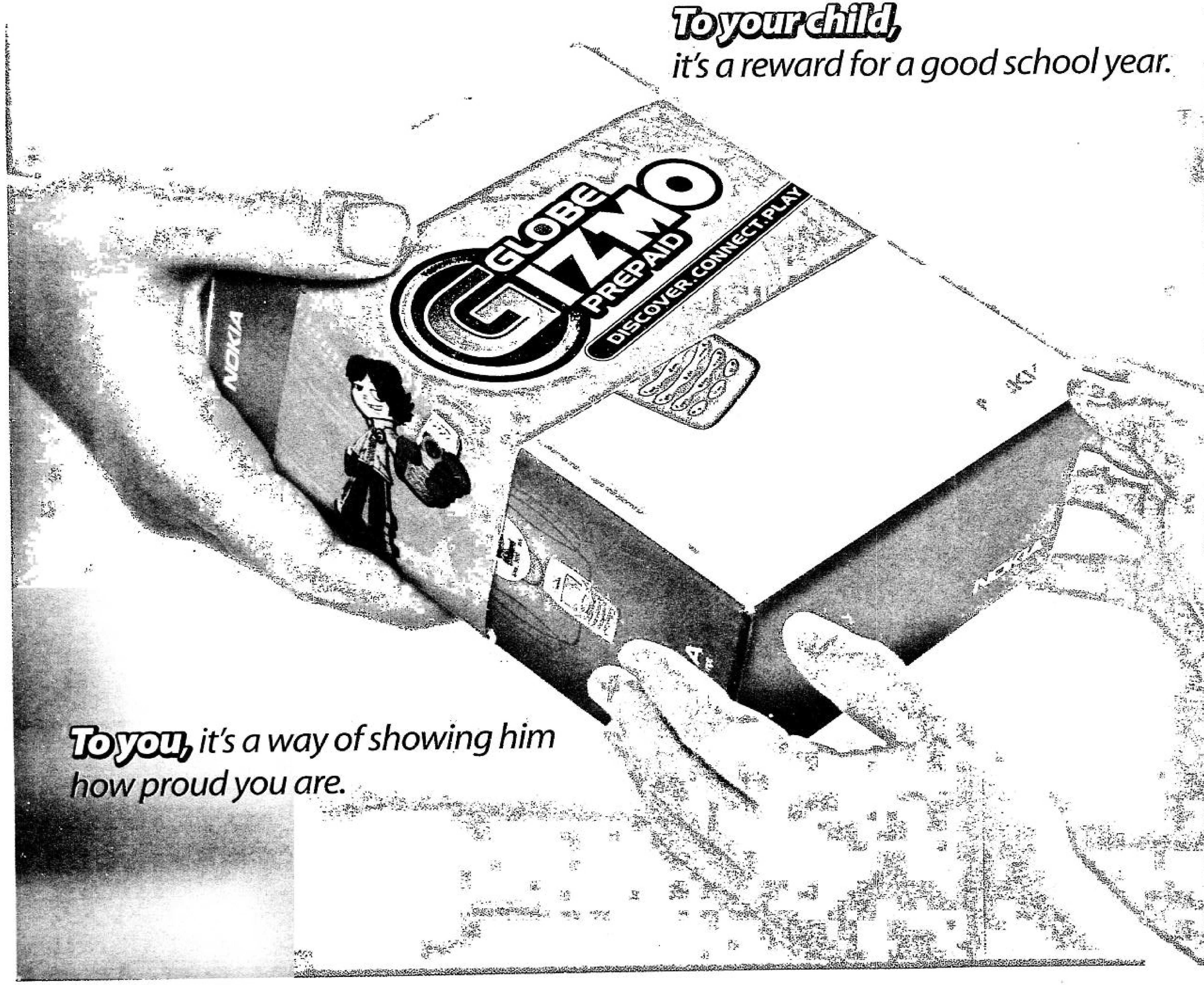

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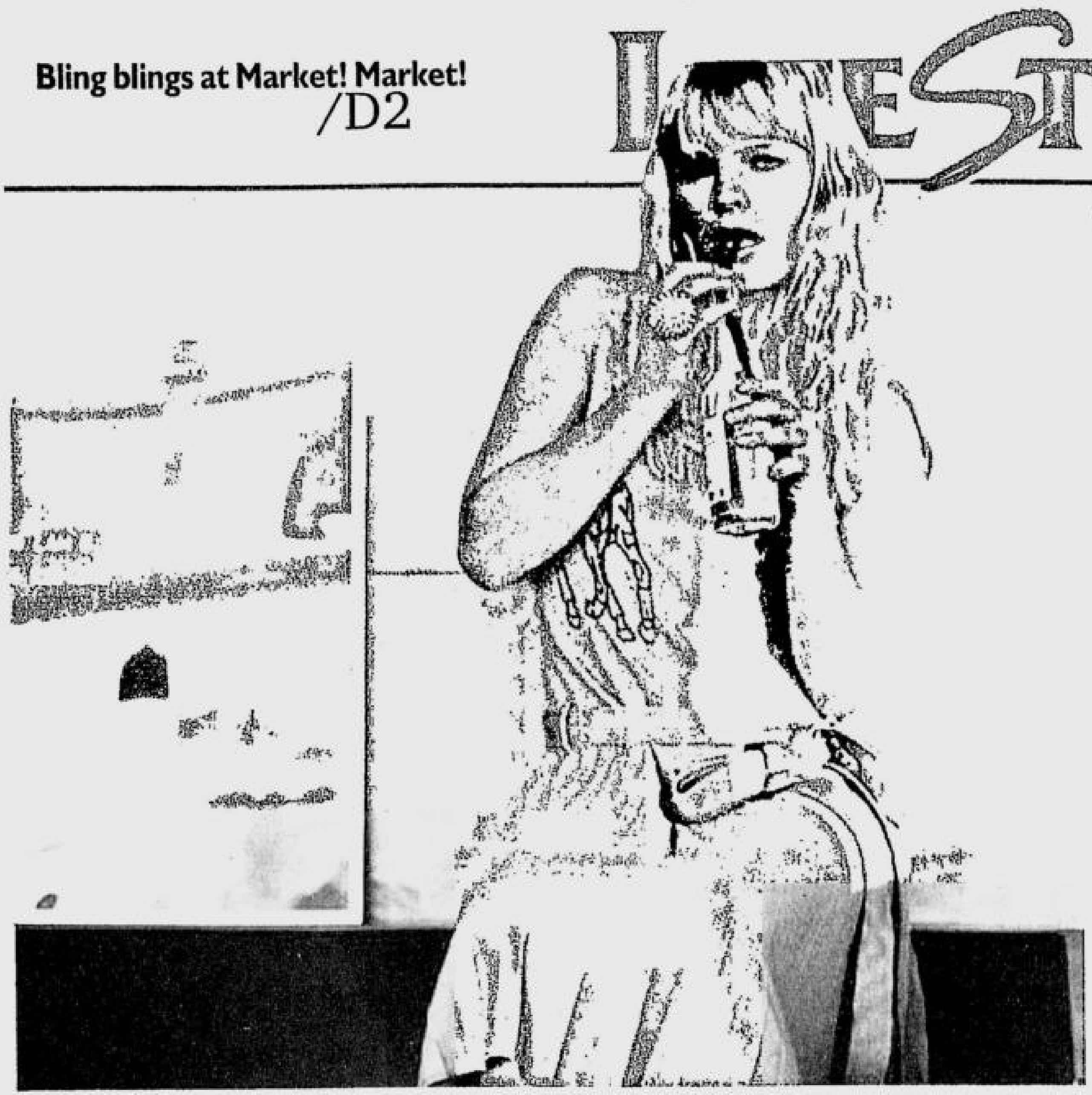
YELLOW sitting

COLOR-PRINTED girl

Trailblazing Finn designer

YOUNG Finns are taking fashion design matters into their own hands. On the forefront of this fashion revolution in Finland are 30-year-old Paola Suhonen and her Ivanahelsinki label. On March 31, Filipinos will be treated to a special invitational fashion show billed "Finland in Fashion! Ivanahelsinki in Spotlight" at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City that will feature the designer's distinctive creations.

Suhonen and Ivanahelsinki have established a presence in over 20 countries including Japan, South Korea and China (Hong Kong). This year, Ivanahelsinki arrives in the Philippines. Suhonen, under the auspices of the Embassy of Finland in Manila, is joining the celebration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Ivanahelsinki's clothes are distinctive for their large and colorful avant-gardish prints that Suhonen chooses according to the theme of a collection. The charismatic designer draws inspiration from the easy-going lifestyle of the Finns in the 1970s. Her collection is a fresh extension of traditional Finnish fashion design. It complements Ivanahelsinki's new style design called "Art Modem"—the nostalgic, Slavic-Scandinavian style of clothes that appeals to trendy urban people with strong lifestyle values.

Ivanahelsinki was established in 1998 by Suhonen, a graduate of Helsinki's University of Industrial Art and Design. The family-run company blends Scandinavian and Slavic aesthetics in producing clothes and accessories.

PAOLA Suhonen

Marketing director Pirjo Suhonen, Paola's sister, believes Finland's being in between Sweden and Russia brings a unique combination of Russian and Slavic melancholy in their products. Scandinavia gives them pure lines of design which, combined with the Slavic understanding of colors, makes the world of Ivanahelsinki.

All items are manufactured in Finland. Prints are made by hand using traditional silk-screening methods. Pirjo says their products are not just clothes, but design articles.

While in Manila, Suhonen will also give a series of lectures on Finnish design at De La Salle University-Taft and La Salle College International.

Ivanahelsinki clothes, accessories and fabrics will be featured in the "Ivanahelsinki Design Pattern Exhibition" at the 3/L of Shangri-La Plaza, March 31-April 7.

Call 6337851 or log on to www.shangri-la-plaza.com.

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PLDT

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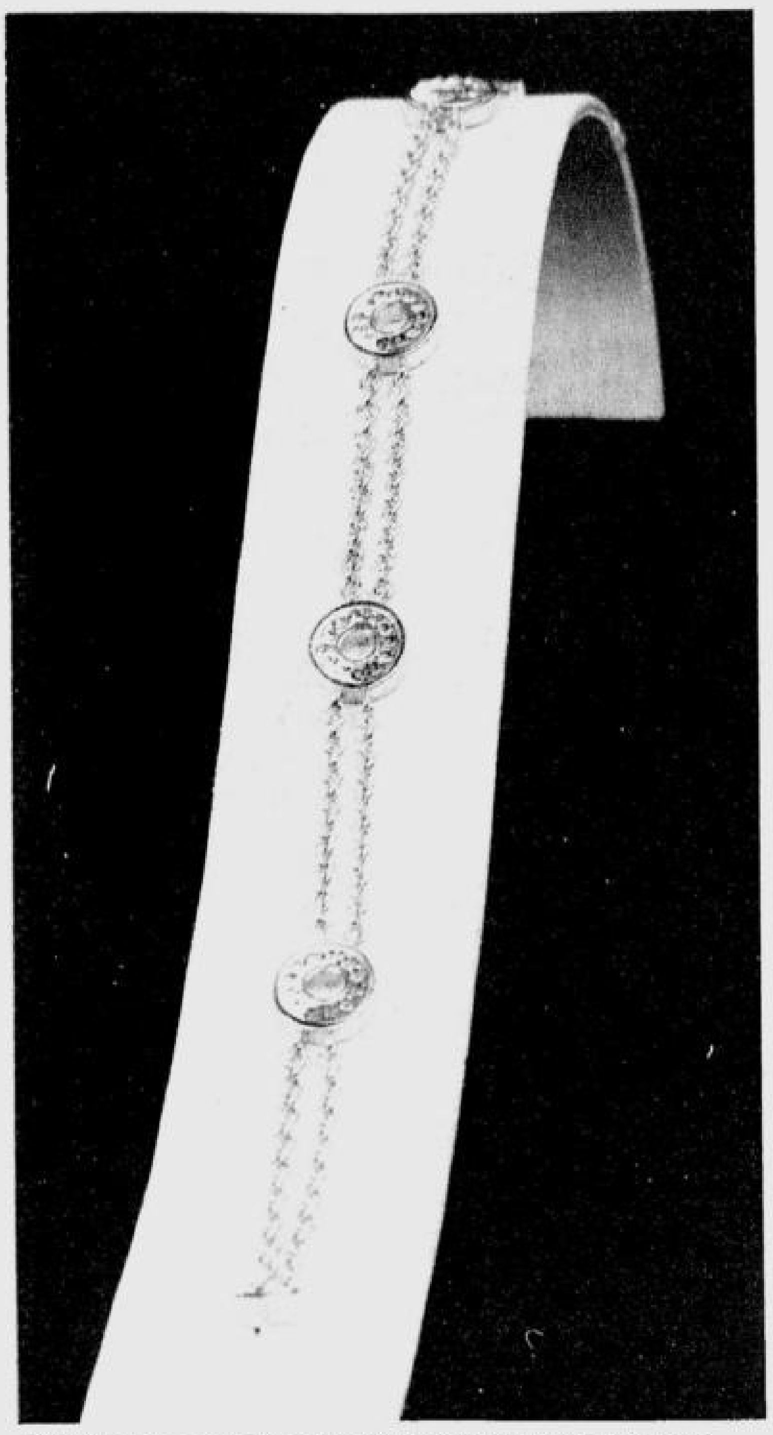

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DIAMOND wedding ring. Two-toned in gold and white gold, round cut, from Karat World

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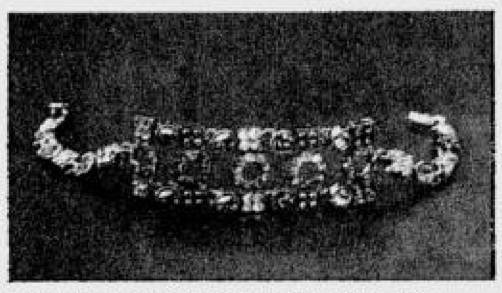
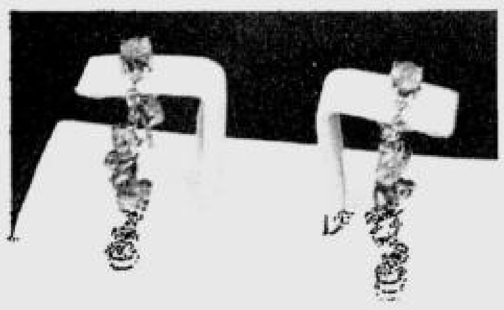
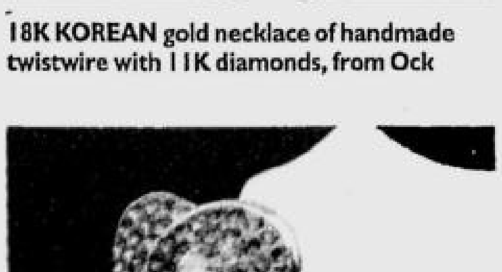


FASHION jewelry bracelet, copper with semiprecious stones made in Italy, from Gem Talk, P1,875



PINK sapphire earrings with diamonds in 18K white gold, from Acme Jewelry, P43,900

18K KOREAN gold necklace of handmade twistwire with 11K diamonds, from Ock



SILVER-SETTING heart ring of Swarovski crystals, from Esse, P7,500

IN the world's fashion capitals, jewelry—brooches and bangles and heartstopping rings that showcase precious colored stones—have become as celebrated as the clothes themselves.

This glittering trend is reflected in Market! Market!, Ayala's sprawling budget-shopping complex in Taguig whose main mall has dedicated a large chunk of its second level to jewelry of all kinds.

Whether you're a bride-to-be looking for a set of pearls that will set off your red-letter day aglow, or just a girl about town in search of new charms for your bracelet, the best place to fill your bling craving at the best prices could very well be this market.

The premium names in jewelry all have their well-appointed spots here: M.Lhuillier, Tambunting and Prima Gold.

For the more fashionable finds, there's Arezzo Collection, 7th Heaven, Silverline and Precision Watch, which all have carved a niche on the accessories market.

Gem Talk offers beautiful necklaces in suede leather with semiprecious stones made in Italy. A copper bracelet with semiprecious stones is ideal for the back-to-Bohemia mood of the moment.

At Esse, Swarovski crystals set in silver heart necklaces, rings, earrings and round bracelets have their own charm. Acme has exquisite pink sapphire earrings with diamonds in 18K white gold, and pendants with colored stones and diamonds that go perfectly with Omega necklaces.

Italian gold bracelets of distinctly gorgeous Murano glasses can be found at Venice Creations. D' Fragments boasts of diamond chandelier earrings in 18K white' gold with 190 round diamonds.

For a more personalized touch, OCK accepts custom-made requests aside from its showcase of 18K Korean gold necklaces of handmade twistwire.

At MGC (Mary's Gift Collection), five-color pearl necklaces and freshwater pearls in white, peach, black, cream and gold are the premium pieces, along with jade bracelets and necklaces with pearls and Swarovski crystals.

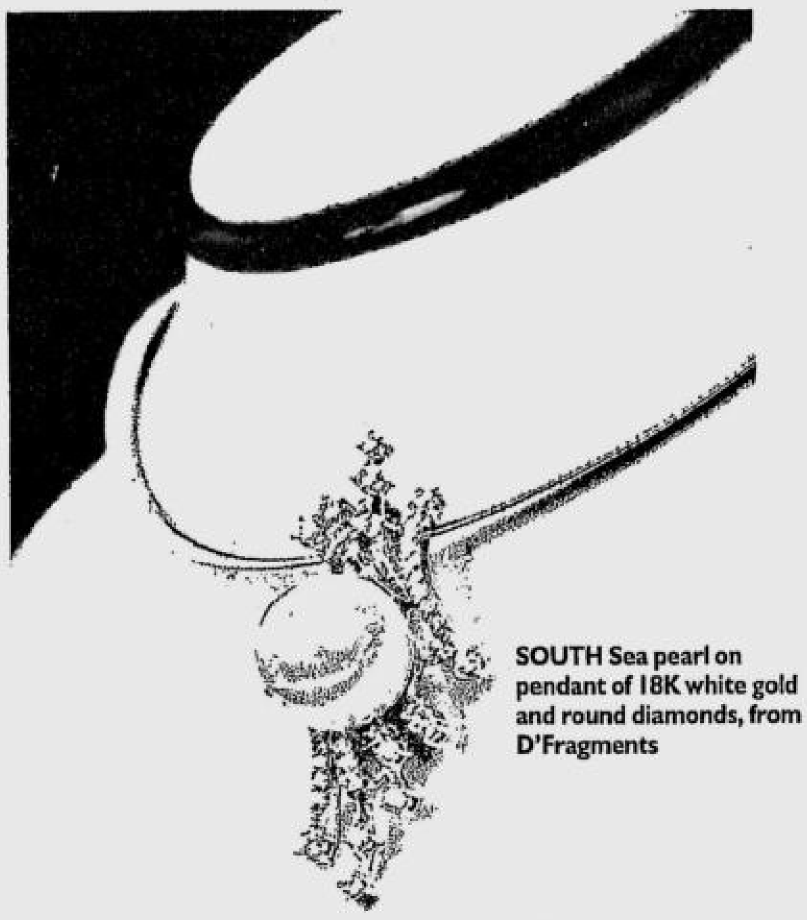
A handmade 24K gold-plated tambourine with a silver base is a headturner at the North Atelier, where a 14K white gold sun pendant can be found.

The jewels make a strong statement at Mix Gems, where a set of choker and bracelet studded with diamonds are a steal at 16.3K.

Karat World specializes in wedding jewelry. A diamond ring here can be a 14K white gold with princess-cut diamond, or a two-tone round-cut diamond.

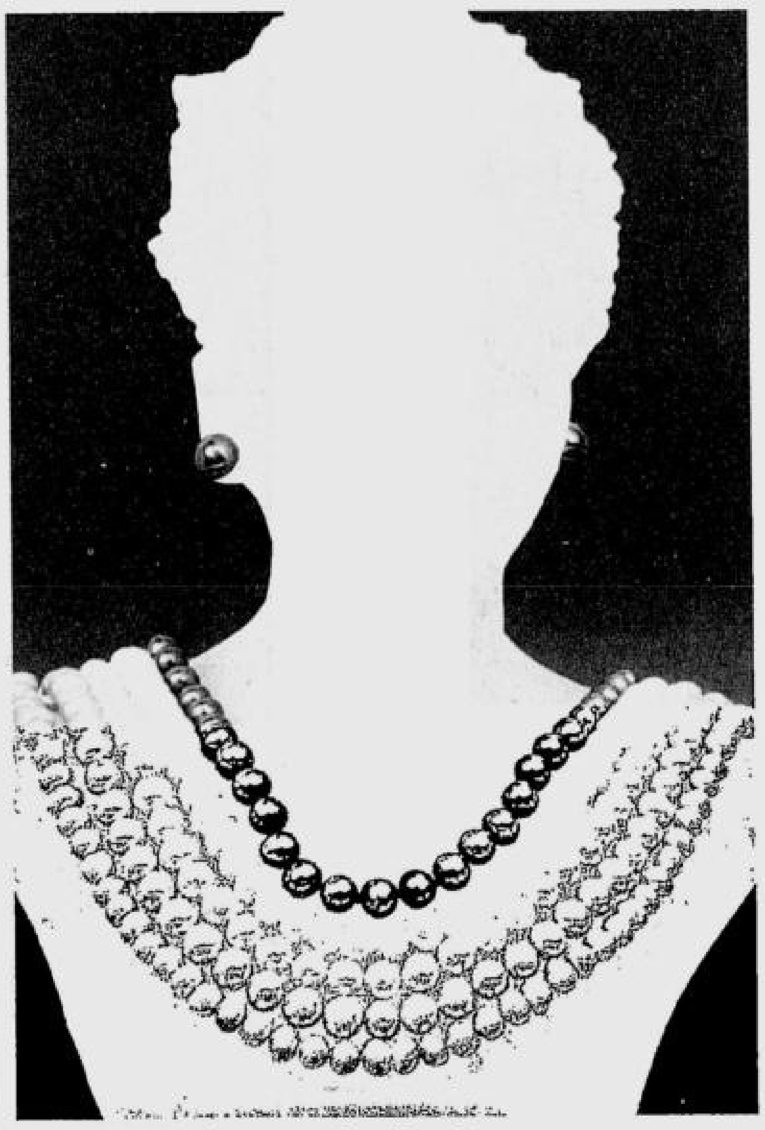
At Market! Market!, flea-market shopping gets a modern treatment. The 150,000-sq.-m.-huge value mall is a marketplace like those found in Bangkok or Shanghai, complete with the sights and sounds of a hawkers' hub, but with the comforts of an air-conditioned venue.

Market! Market! in the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, C5, is open Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and on Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full-service transport terminal is available for your shoppers' convenience.

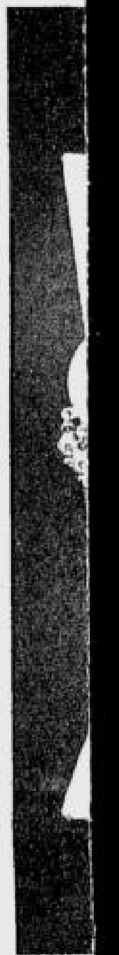


SOUTH Sea pearl on pendant of 18K white gold and round diamonds, from D'Fragments

ITALIAN gold necklace with Murano glass, from Venice Creation



FIVE-COLOR freshwater pearl necklaces in white, peach, black, cream and gold, from MGC1, P500



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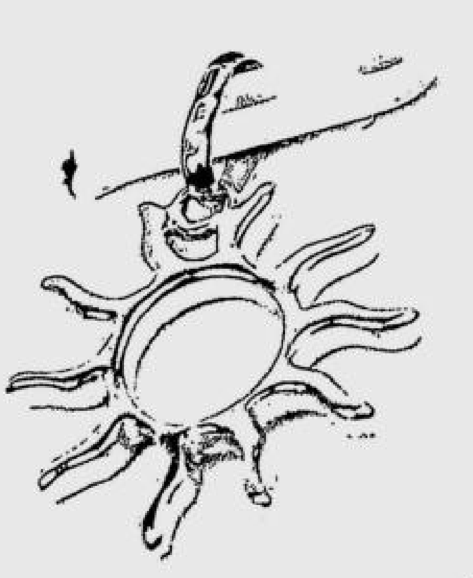
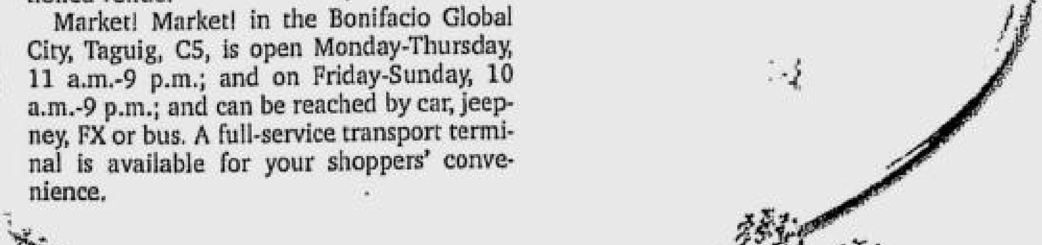
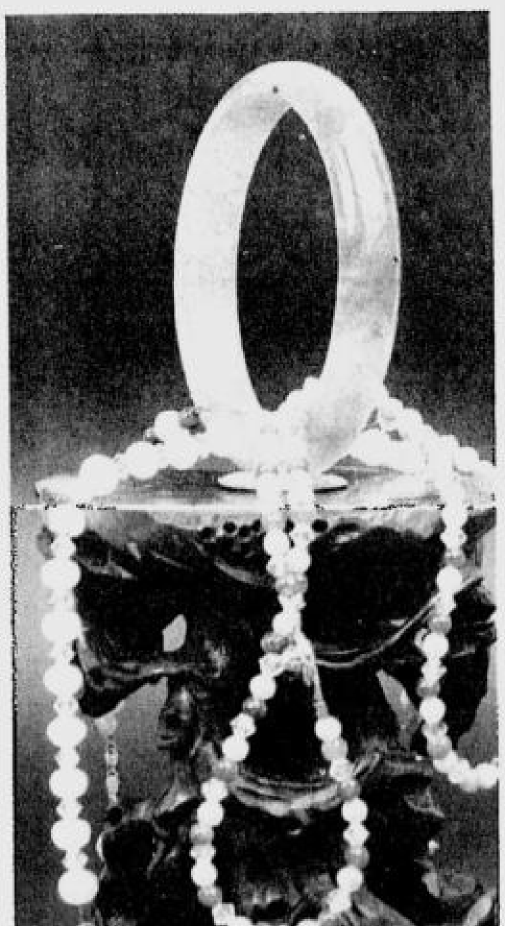


SUN pendant in 14K white gold, from North Atelier, P1,500



PENDANT of colored stones and diamonds in 18K white-gold setting, of emerald, pink sapphire and citrine-colored stones, from Acme Jewelry, P50,900



JADE bracelet and necklace with pearls and Swarovski crystals, from MGC, P3,000

SET choker and bracelet wit
14K white gold setting, from

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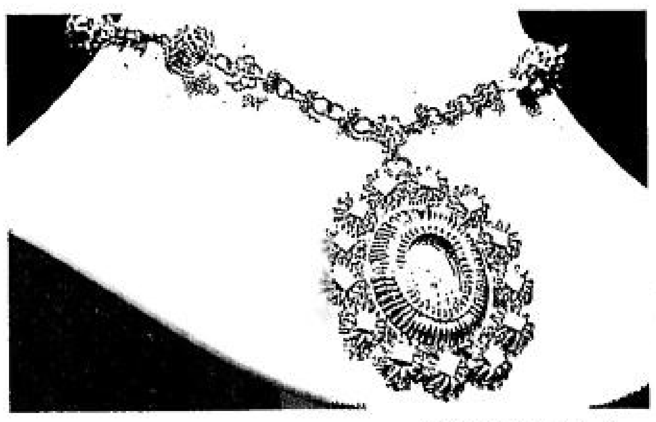
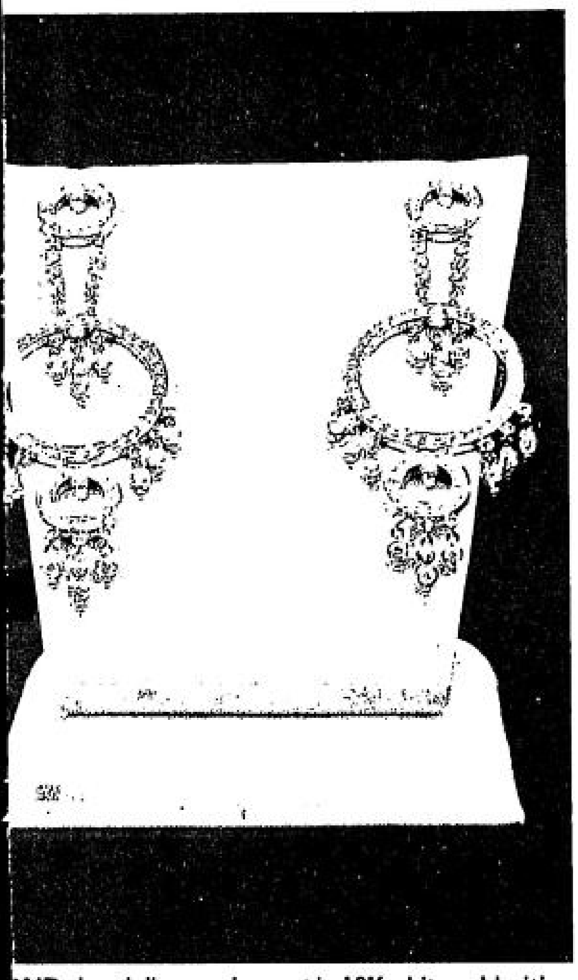
FASHION jewelry necklace in suede leather with semiprecious stones made in Italy. Available in pink, black, blue, from Gem Talk, P4,845



TAMBOURINE of 24K gold plate with silver base, handmade in Meycauyan, Bulacan. Available in silver or gold, from North Atelier, P5,500



ND chandelier earrings set in 18K white gold with
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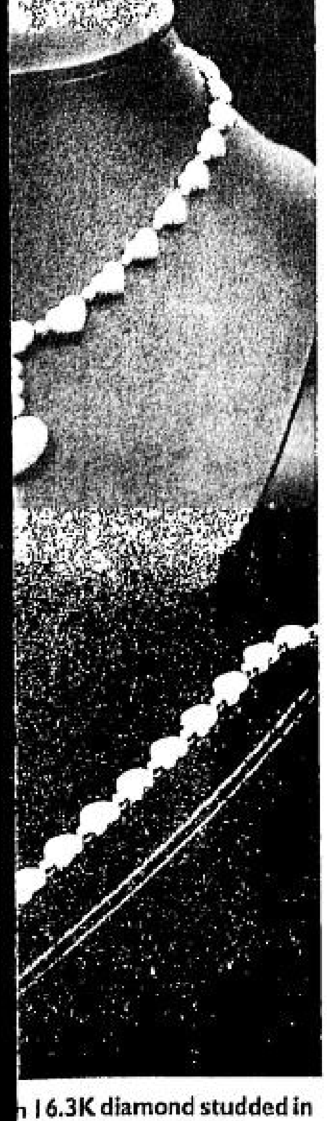

n 16.3K diamond studded in
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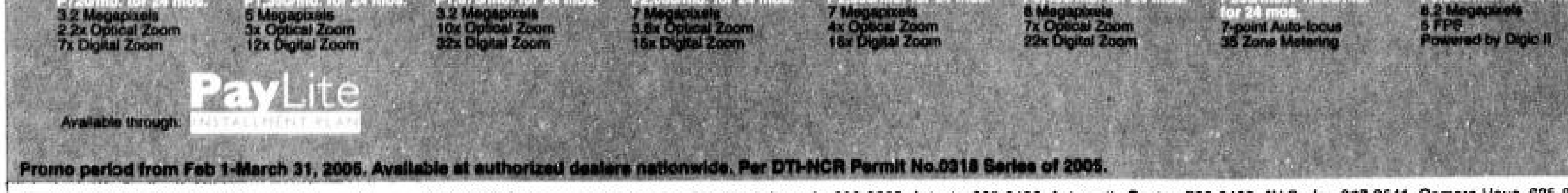

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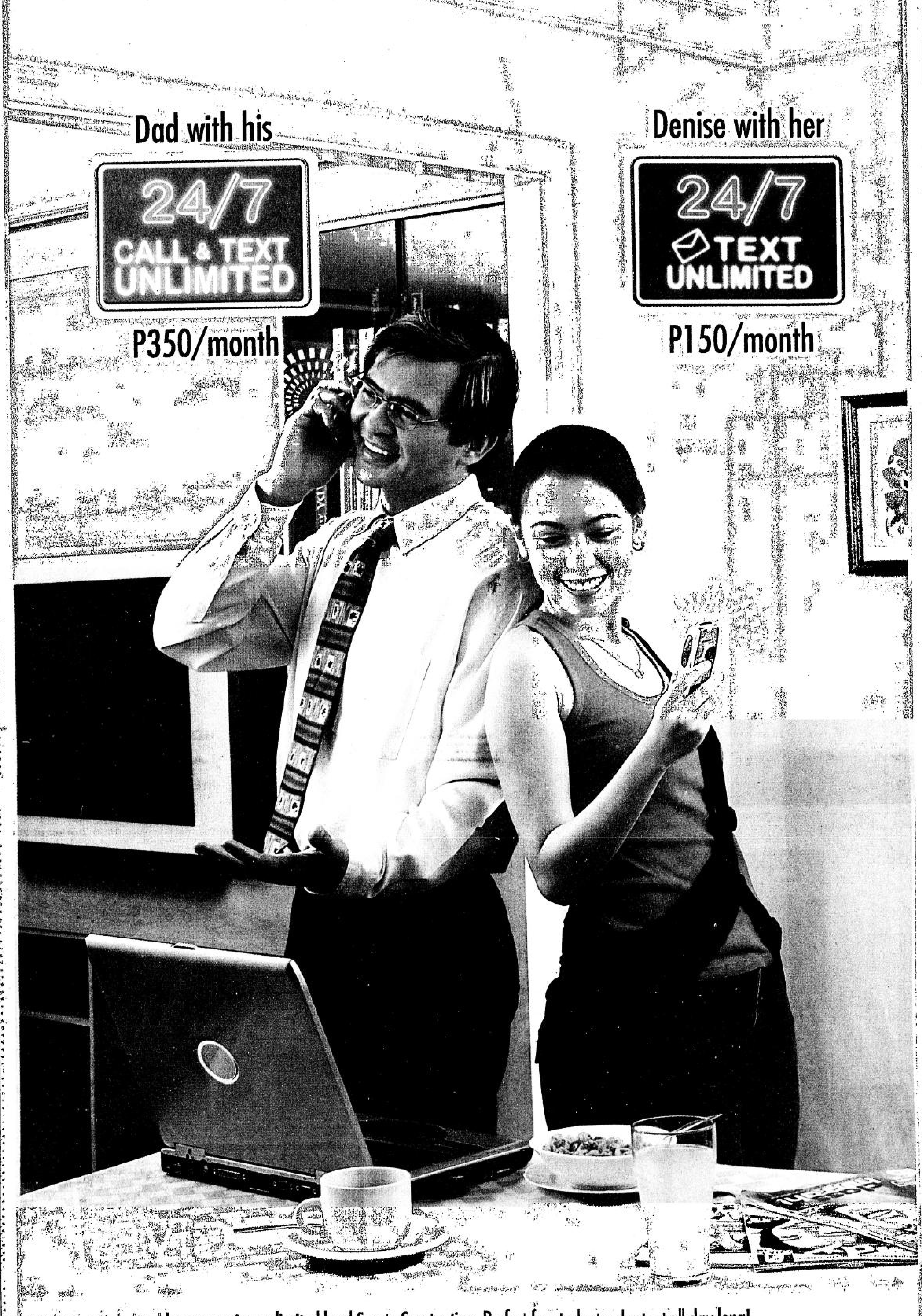

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• Sun to landline	6.50	6.25	6.50	6.25	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.60	5.00
NDD	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	9.50	9.00	9.00	8.50	9.00	8.50
IDD	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30
Regular SMS										
• Sun to Sun	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00
• Sun to other mobiles	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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Style with a social conscience

Using her signature banana-abaca fiber and Mangyan weaves in her creations, premiere designer Dita Sandico-Ong aims to promote the concept of an eco-luxury lifestyle

BANANA-WRAP Zen one-shoulder beaded dress with magenta hand-painted butterfly print

BANANA fiber and piña mix beaded corset and piña layered skirt with lace patches

By Shirley Oh
Contributor

IN CELEBRATION of her 20th year in the fashion industry, designer Dita Sandico-Ong, known for her advocacy of using indigenous materials and helping the environment, will hold "Diwata," a multimedia fashion event, on April 23 at Earthaven, San Mateo, Rizal.

The fashion event will showcase designs that show the evolution of Filipino fashion from its indigenous beginnings to modern urban tribal Filipino and futuristic global getups.

Using her signature banana-abaca fiber and Mangyan weaves in her creations, Sandico-Ong aims to promote the concept of an eco-luxury lifestyle, where nature, the environment, arts, culture and fashion are fused together as one.

During the "Diwata" preview held last March 11 at a Forbes Park residence, the designer gave the guests a glimpse of a fashion collection revolving around the themes of "Kahapon," "Ngayon" and "Bukas."

Her trademark materials, banana fiber and *piña* silk, were transformed into exquisite wrap dresses, tunics, skirts and corsets in eye-catching shades of turquoise, yellow, red-orange and beige, with beading and hand-painted designs put in for additional flair.

While the fabric of Sandico-Ong's creations spoke of Filipino culture, the clean and sleek cuts of the clothes lent them a stylishly contemporary air, resulting in Zen-like chic outfits—modern, unfussy and undeniably classic.

The main focus of the evening, though, was the presentation of the designer's latest project and cause, as well as the beneficiary of her upcoming Diwata fashion event: the Zero-Waste Fiber Board Housing Project, where abaca waste is made into low-cost housing material for the benefit of the Catanduanes community.

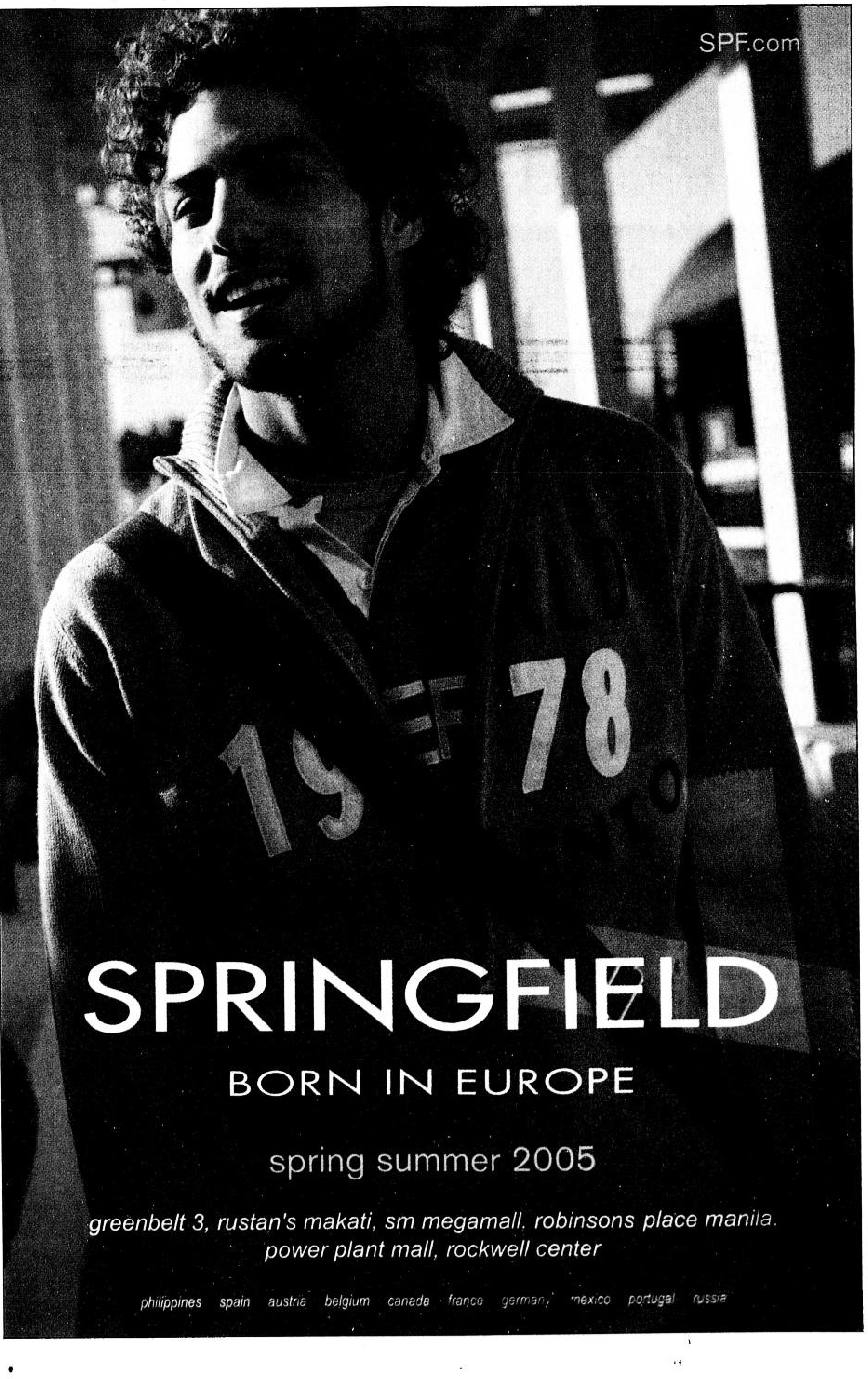
With this project, the designer aims to provide weather-proof, fire-resistant and termite-proof houses that will serve as sturdy and stable homes to the people of Catanduanes.

Because the Zero-Waste Fiber Board is 100-percent recyclable, the cost of living in houses that can withstand the test of calamities won't be so high anymore. For only P20,000, a family can already be provided with sufficient material to construct their own home.

With the community working together to provide labor, the project also aims to bring forth "an eco-community that promotes a modern *bayanihan* mentality."

The Zero-Waste Fiber Board Housing Project, through Sandico-Ong's fashion show and other projects, hopes to encourage people to be more creative and resourceful in finding earth-friendly solutions to social problems.

BANANA-WRAP Zen dress with purple hand-painted butterfly print



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Color and shine in an Oprah afte

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

WHILE I have never managed to sit through an entire episode of "Oprah," I am familiar with her "Favorite Things" portion. That's the part where everyone in the audience gets whatever Oprah likes at the moment, including books, digital cameras and even cars.

But I had always dismissed the segment as a dream come true for people who could actually watch the show in person. After all, the chances of that happening on a local talk show—or any local TV host becoming someone like Oprah Winfrey for that matter—are slim to zero.

Recently, Avon Cosmetics gave beauty addicts a taste of the feel-good theme so consistently played on "Oprah." The company launched a line of cosmetics designed to help women find their perfect match, be it the shade, consistency or staying power of their makeup.

Avon also paid recognition to four Filipino women who have found their "perfect match" in work and family—women who give substance and meaning to their status as celebrities: Chin-Chin Gutierrez, Liezl Martinez, Jackie Lou Blanco and Rissa Samson.

Environmental awareness

Chin-Chin Gutierrez, a movie and stage actress, makes use of her popularity and influence to spread environmental awareness, especially on waste management and forest preservation. She also aims to make culture more accessible to the masses, having released "Uyayi," a collection of Filipino lullabies, some time ago.

Former child actress Liezl Martinez is content to stay away from the limelight to focus on her family and their furniture business. The mother of three and wife of actor Albert Martinez says, "My business works for me because I'm happy and it does not disrupt my being a mom, which is still my priority. Everything I'm doing complements each other."

Although Rissa Samson is best known as a professional model, many also know her as a columnist for a daily, where she dispenses beauty and fashion advice to readers. When she's not modeling or writing, the young mother spends time with her son. She has plans of writing fiction and returning to school for higher studies.

Fitness enthusiast Jackie Lou Blanco, actress and mom of three, has gained renown as a fitness instructor and prize-winning bodybuilder. However, when asked which role is closest to her heart, she replies, "My being my mom and a wife. All the others complement me as a person."

At the launching of the new makeup line, Avon's resident makeup artist, Lala Flores, demonstrated how to transform Rissa Samson's fresh daytime makeup into a smokier, more formal look with a few key colors from the collection.

"Ordinary women and not just makeup artists can create these looks without too much difficulty," she said, brandishing an eye palette and lipstick. "There's no magic involved."

Silver cases

After the demonstration, members of the Avon team materialized from the back room, lugging gigantic silver cases filled with the entire new collection of makeup for everyone in the room, completing the whole "Oprah-

RISSA Samson and Lala Flore

GELA Laurel doing a Perfe
makeover on Cosmopolita
Betita-Samson

FRANCINE Medina and Gela

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A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

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2BU! correspondent Bianca Consunji and INQUIRER's Pam Pastor

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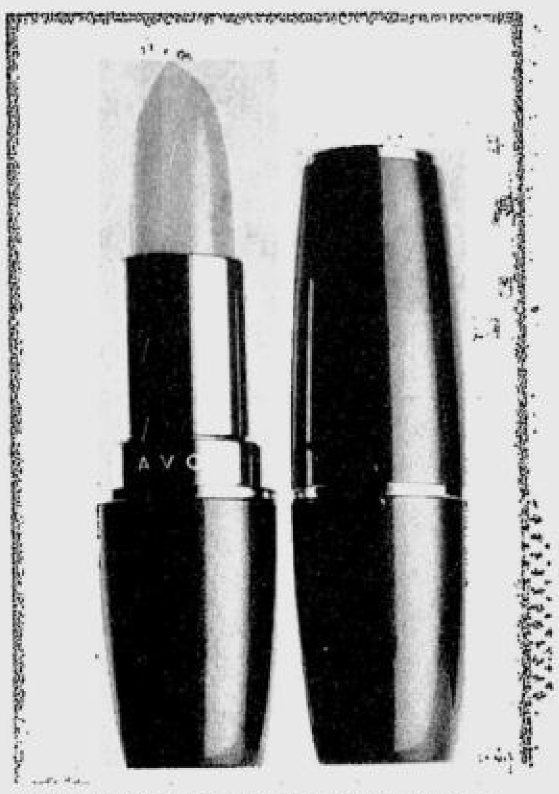

WOMEN will discover their perfect match in the new Avon Color collection.

t Match
's Claire

noon

Laurel

themed" afternoon.

The sound of squealing almost drowned out the emcee, who was inviting everyone to try out the collection's new colors. One of the representatives approached me, offering to apply makeup on my bare face, but I declined. I wanted to try it out for myself on my sister, on unsuspecting classmates, on anyone who wanted a makeover. (The huge case made me feel like an official makeup artist.)

The collection includes 20 shades of Ultra Rich lipstick, with 15 new colors and 5 previous bestsellers, four True Color eyeshadow quads (Touch of Spice, Denim, Lilac Dream and Deepest Rose), three True Color blush duos (Rose Lustre and Silk, Cool Plum and Swoon and Russet and Peche), several shades of Personal Match pressed powder, loose powder, concealer, Glimmersticks eye and lip liners, and Perfect Wear mascara.

The standout items include the Ultra Rich lipstick, which has a smooth, silky texture and comes in a cocktail of colors. It doesn't wear off quickly; hours later, the lipstick is still intact.

Also worth checking out are the True Color blush duos, which contain a "self-liquefying complex" that causes the makeup to blend into the skin.

The collection is available at all Avon outlets and sales representatives nationwide.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

IT'S HUNTING SEASON AT THE SHANG!

Celebrate a fun-filled Easter that will showcase your kids' creativity and love for adventure! Grab cool freebies and goodies in the exciting egg hunt and other thrilling games to jumpstart the merry festivities!

Easter Kiddie Corner

*Free Face Painting
*Free Balloon Twisting with Party Fantasy
March 19-20, 2-4pm
Level 4, Kids Zone

Bring the Biggest and the Smallest Easter Bunny Contest

March 27, 2-4pm Level 2, Grand Atrium

MECHANICS:

1. Bring the smallest or biggest Easter bunny (made of ceramic, paper mache, or stuffed toy) on Easter Sunday between 2-4pm on March 27. NO LIVE BUNNIES.
2. Judging will be held at the Grand Atrium, Level 2 on the same day.
3. Two winners will be chosen for both the smallest and the biggest Easter bunny. Winners will receive special prizes.

Easter Storytelling Session with the Alitaptap Storytellers Club

*Craft Activity and Games
March 20, 3-4pm
Level 4, Art Plaza

Easter Kiddie Salon

March 27, 1-5pm
Level 2, Grand Atrium

Easter Egg Hunt

March 27, 1-4pm
Level 2, Grand Atrium

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Children from ages 2 to 12 can join, with their mom or dad as partners.
2. Register at the Administration Office, Level 5 of the Shangri-La Plaza, from March 5 to 25, 2005.
3. Registration fee is P150 per parent-child team. First-come, first-served basis. Only the first 150 teams can participate. No refunds.
4. Assembly time is at 1-1:30pm on March 27 at Level 2, Grand Atrium.
5. The hunt will begin at exactly 2pm and end at 4pm.
6. Each qualified team automatically receives a goodie bag.
7. Employees of Shangri-La Plaza Corporation, participating sponsors, suppliers, and advertising agency, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the Easter Egg Hunt.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Participants will be divided into 3 groups.
2. Each parent-child team will be assigned a color and given an Easter Egg Hunt map and a bag of goodies.
3. Teams will visit the stores indicated in the map and collect one (1) egg from each store.
4. The egg will have a colored sticker with the store's name. This sticker should be placed on the right spot in the map.
5. When the teams have collected all the eggs and have placed all the stickers on the map, they must return to the validation table located at the Grand Atrium.
6. Prizes will be given to the first 10 teams with validated maps.

Color Me Mine The Art Cafe
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LEATHER Girl Bands from Anne Klein watches

Time to glam up

TIME DEPOT offers a wide selection of internationally renowned watch collections.

Ck and Nautica pieces can be worn on casual work days, dressier weekends or evenings out. Casio Edifice is a sporty wristwatch tough enough for the open seas or high altitudes. Marc Ecko watches in pink and black leather cuff have the signature rhino and funky dials.

Time Depot is located at Rockwell, Makati; Robinsons Place Manila; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Eastwood Citywalk 2, Quezon City; and SM branches in North Edsa Annex and Fairview, QC; Bicutan, Taguig; Dasmariñas, Cavite; Pampanga, Davao City, Baguio City, and Cagayan de Oro City.

TWEETIE de Leon

Modeling class begins April 4

TOP model Tweetie de Leon will again teach modeling April 4-June 9 at Trumpets Playshop at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Now on her fifth year with Trumpets Playshop, De Leon promises another summer full of fun and excitement.

Two alumnae of De Leon's class are now promising names in the entertainment and modeling industries—3R's Bettinna Carlos and StarStruck's Ailyn Luna.

Apart from modeling, Trumpets Playshop also offers workshops on Public Speaking under Kata Inocencio, Basic Fashion Photography under Jason Tablante, Animation under Roli Sabado, Basic Acting under Enchang Kaimo, Musical Theater under Audie Gemora and Jaime del Mundo, and Streetdancing under the Manoeuvres.

Enrollment is open until April 16. Call 6362842, 6335010 or 6354478.

Trumpets Playshop venues are at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Steps Dance Studio, and Alabang Town Center.

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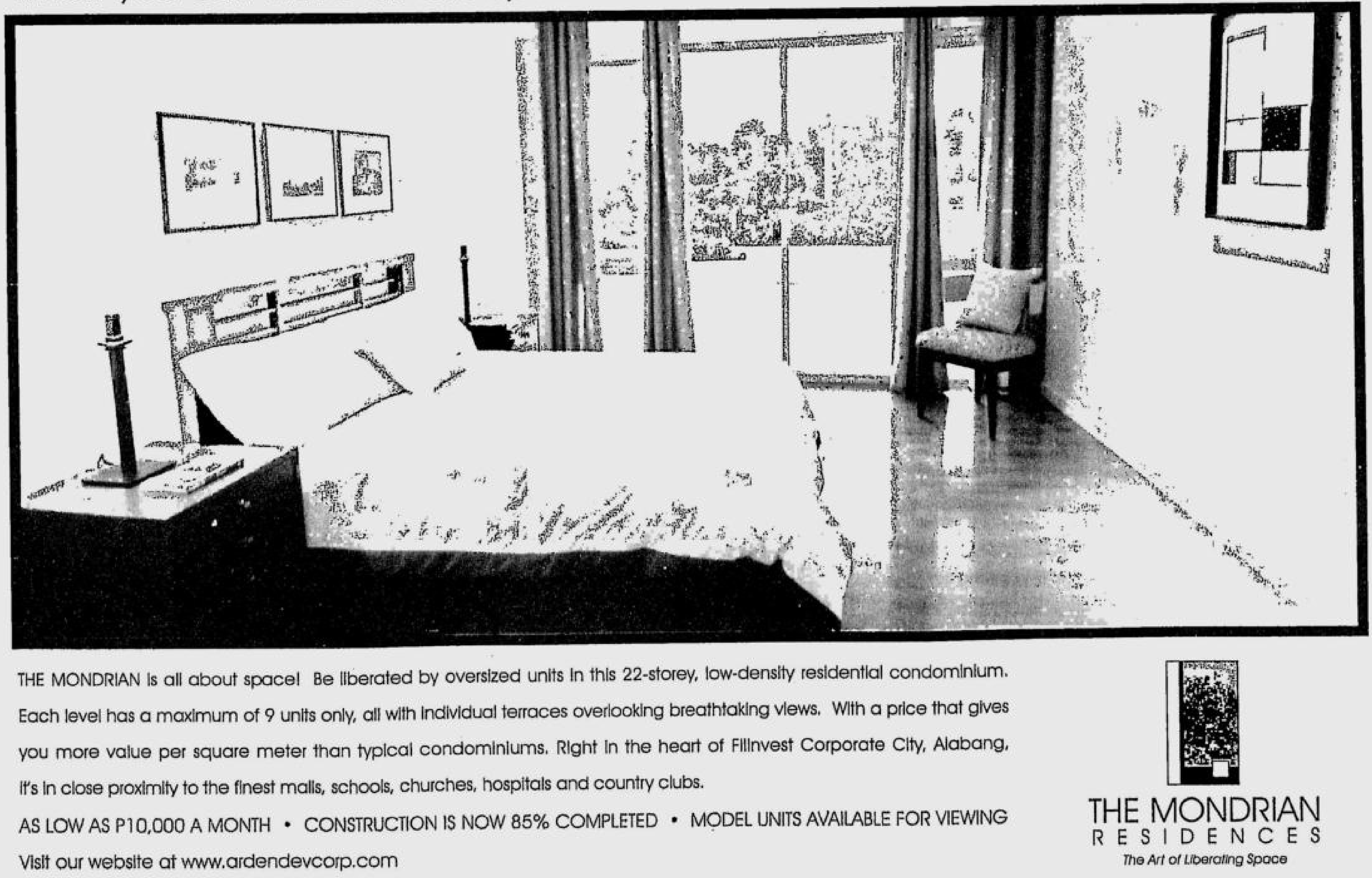

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Hollywood celebrity hairstylist Charles Dujic says rebonded locks are so five years ago

THE STYLIST to A-list Hollywood celebs like Cate Blanchett and George Clooney takes a bow at the recent Sunsilk hair trend show he headlined at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

"BE Glam" hairstyle, created by Charles Dujic, interpreted by Rocky Orejola of Basement Salon

Straight hair, begone!

By Cheche V. Moral

"YOU have to shake things up around here," says Charles Dujic.

The Hollywood celebrity hairstylist makes this comment after observing the slew of pin-straight-locked Filipinas on his recent Manila visit. Thermal- and chemical-straightened hairstyle is "so five years ago," he adds with a grimace. "If this hair trend comes back in 10 years, that's fine. But right now, it's over."

Dujic, whose A-list Hollywood clients include Cate Blanchett, George Clooney, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Vanessa Carlton, to name just a few, is a 15-year veteran in the hairstyling business. His impressive resumé includes editorials for Cosmopolitan, Vanity Fair, Esquire, Sports Illustrated, Details, Glamour; countless ads and commercials; music videos, and the red-carpet looks of several Hollywood stars.

Often quoted in InStyle magazine for its best-buys section, Dujic is the spokesperson of Sunsilk Strength and Shine Shampoo. His Manila jaunt was his first trip to Asia.

Basic foundation

The American stylist is well aware of how quickly hair trends jump from the pages of magazines or the red carpet onto the streets that, often, people tend to overlook the basic foundation of a good hairstyle.

The key to achieving a great hair, according to him, is healthy, split-ends-free hair. And getting just that is not exactly rocket science.

Modern hairstyling techniques, while they help us get our coveted looks, aggravate already environment-ravaged hair. Dujic says it

STRAIGHT/ F2

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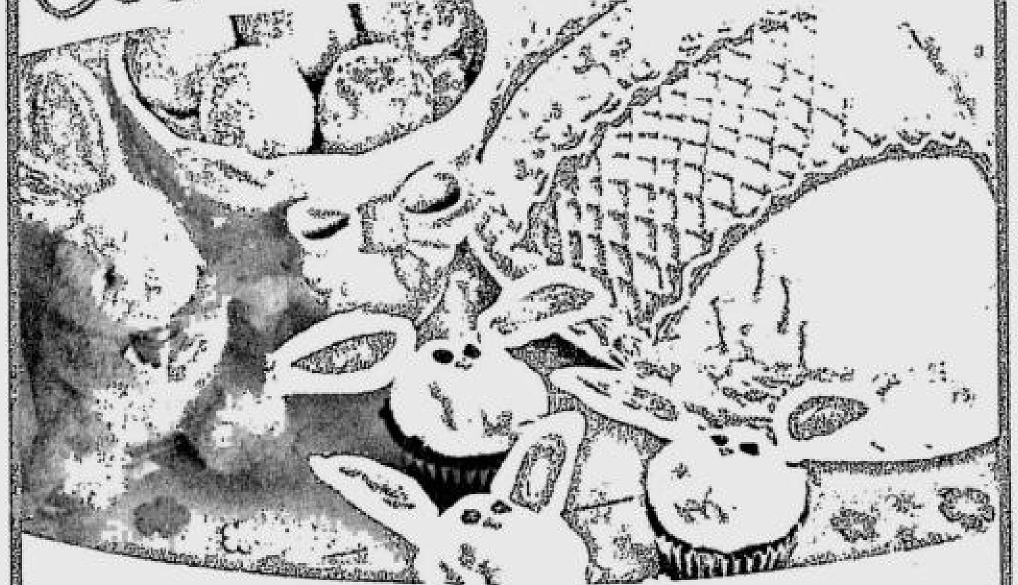

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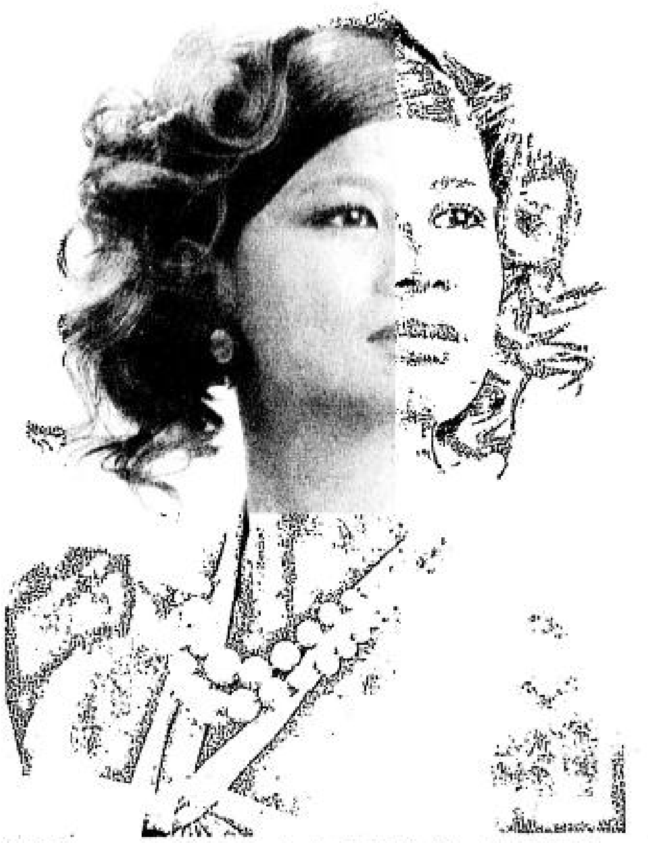
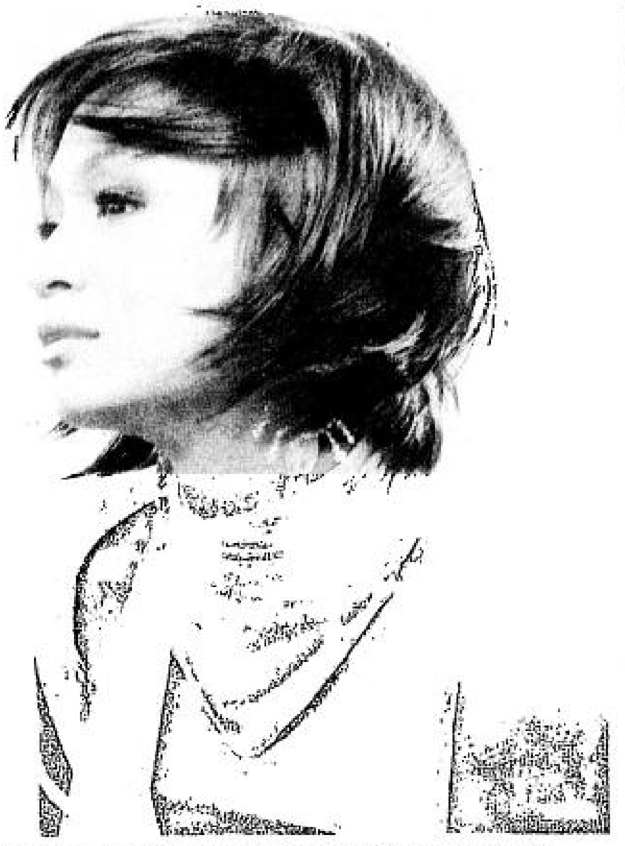
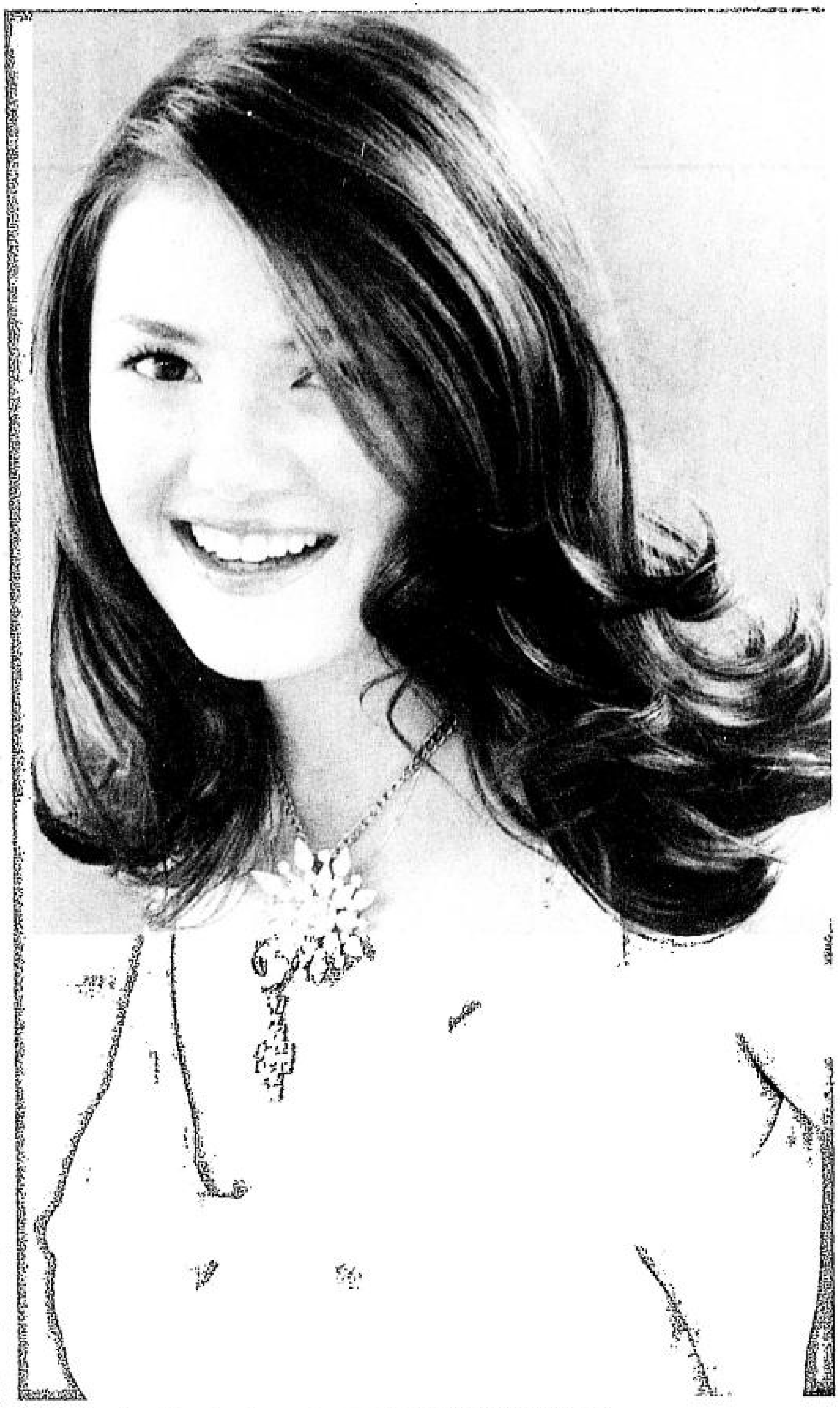
PER DTI - NCR PERMIT #1331 SERIES OF 2005



"BE Romantic," interpreted by Eric Maningat of Studio 546

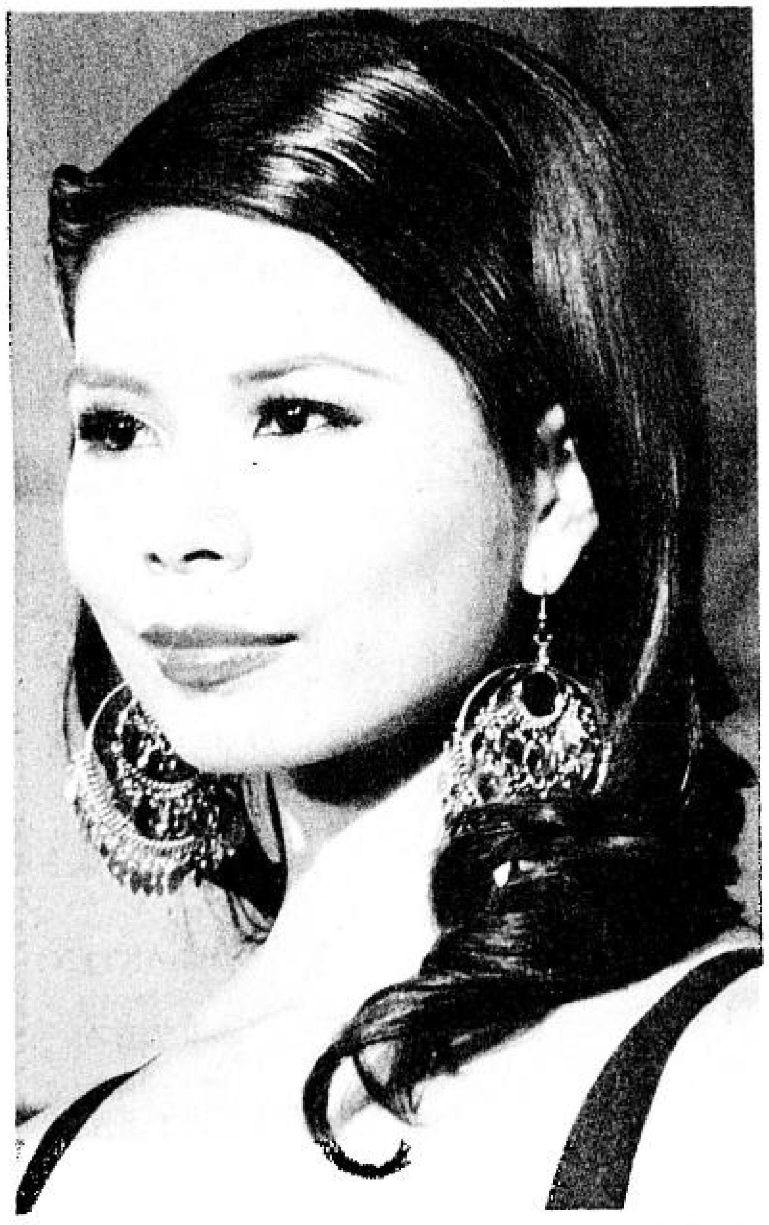


"BE Edgy," interpreted by Leonardo Vasquez of Jesi Mendez



YOUNG actress Angelica Panganiban sports Dujic's "BE Alive" look.

Straight hair, begone!



"BE Sophisticate," interpreted by Cherry Reyes of Essensuals Toni & Guy

From page F1

is vital to practice preventive measures to strengthen hair from harsh styling.

It is the new Sunsilk's claim that regular use can prevent split ends by as much as 96 percent. It boasts of lemon and kiwi vita-complex as added ingredients to nourish and condition hair to avoid breakage.

It is imperative to get the help of a pro to rid you of existing split ends, says Dujic. That way, he adds, you are assured that no unsightly frayed end is missed. When cutting hair, Dujic himself uses the point-cutting technique as alternative to the razor to avoid split ends.

When drying, Dujic reminds that rubbing the hair with a towel is a no-no. He is amused to know that most Filipinos dry their hair with the electric fan ("We only use fans for photo shoots!"), but he concedes this may be less harmful to the hair.

As alternative, he suggests using tourmaline ionic hairdryer, which is typically more expensive but is not as harmful as regular hairdryers. It dries the hair twice as fast with half the heat.

Dujic asserts that hot-oil treatments are too old-fashioned, and suggests protein packs as substitutes. As for coconut oil for the hair, "If it works, why not?"

Hair show

Also part of Dujic's two-week visit was a hair trend show at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, which had him collaborating with seven top local stylists.

He styled three young movie stars inspired by the "BE (Beautiful Ends)" theme. He says he always tries to create a style that looks "lived in, and not too styled."

"Instead of gossiping," he says, "hairstylists should spend time educating their clients and giving them tips so they know how to style their own hair." From his own experience with celebrities, he says, "If they find a connection with you, they ask you back."

Dujic says an expensive haircut doesn't always mean a good haircut, and calls Orlando Pita's rate "ridiculous." Pita, stylist to Madonna, recently caused a stir when he opened his New York salon that charges $600 for a haircut, possibly the most expensive all over the world.

More important than the cost of the haircut and a stylist's celebrity status, according to Dujic, is finding a stylist that you can communicate with.

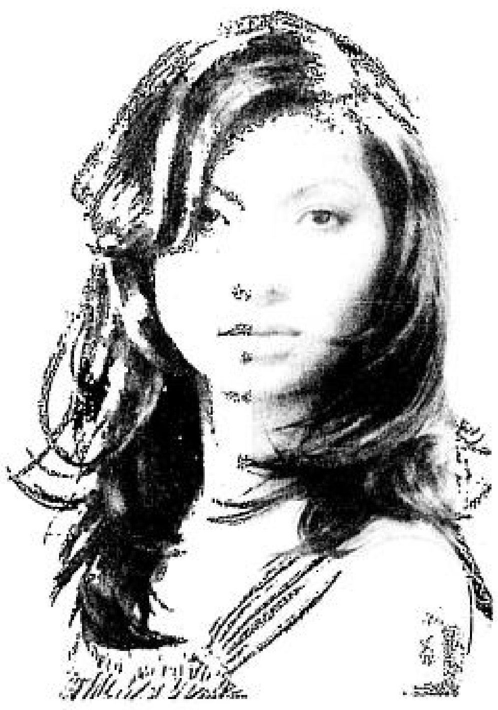
Instead of going for a "rebond," he advises women to "get a perm." Soft curls will flatter the frame of a round face. As Asians usually have round- and heart-shaped faces, asymmetric cuts are the way to go.

"Color is also a great way to get a new look," he continues.

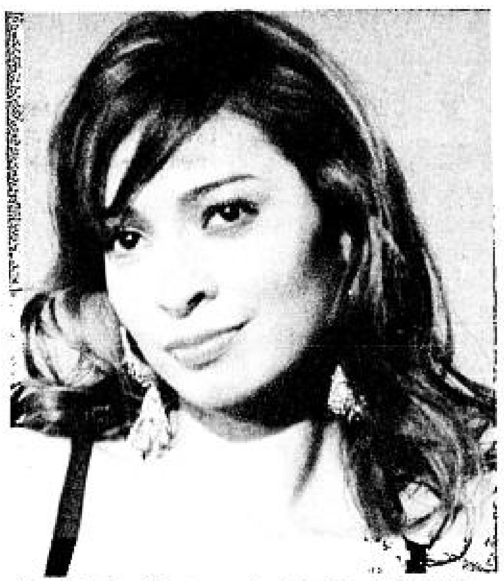
Dujic says Filipinas who have straight hair are being doubly foolish when they iron their locks to achieve that already dated pin-straight style. He calls it a major hair faux pas.

Women with wavy locks, he adds, should "embrace what they have" and pick hairstyles that enhance their best features while camouflaging their flaws.

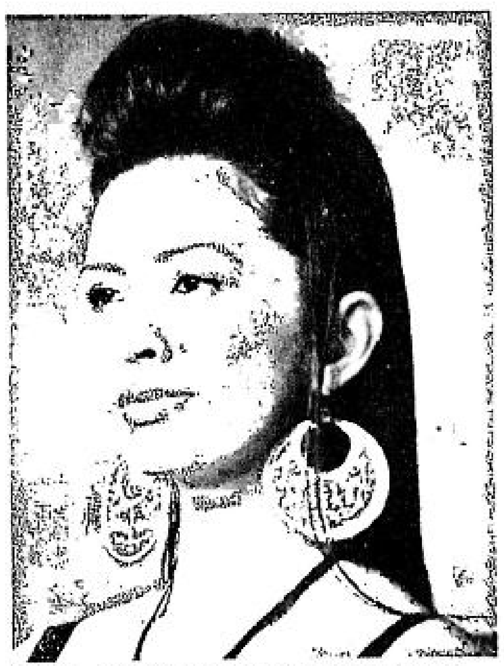
In other words, just "BE."



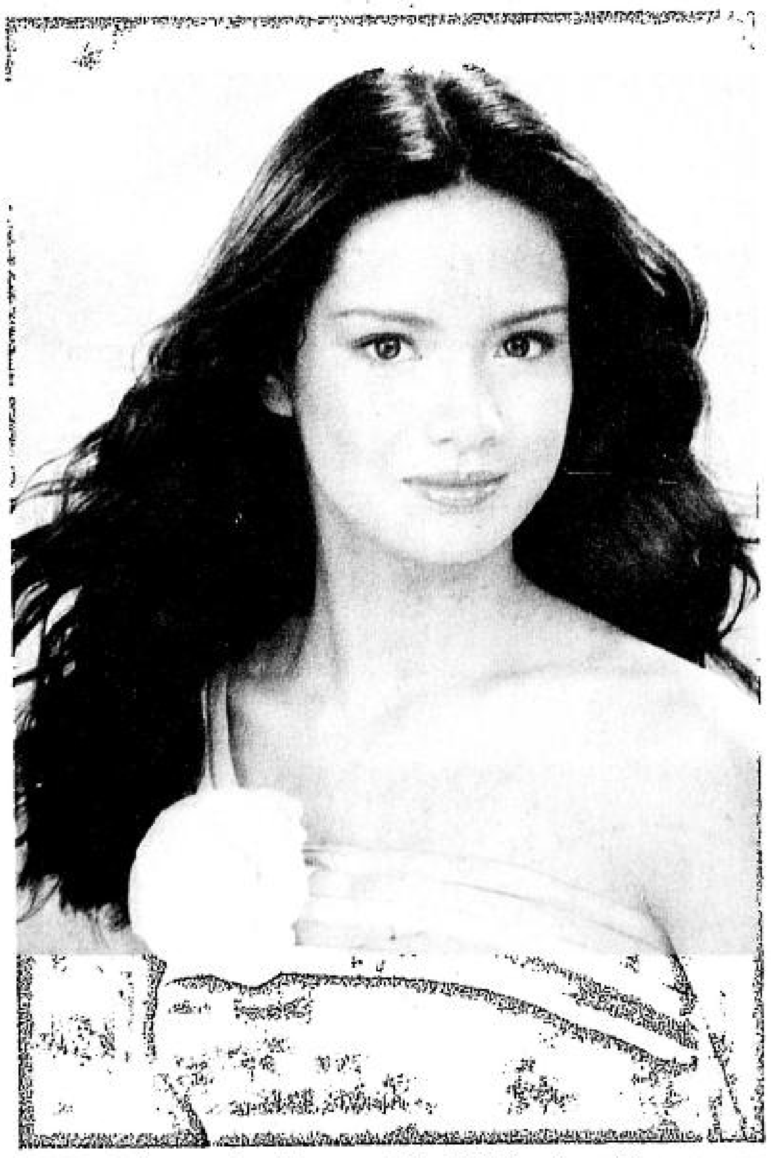
"BE Chic," interpreted by Crispin Britanico of Crispin Britanico Salon



"BE Daring," interpreted by Henri Calayag of H Salon



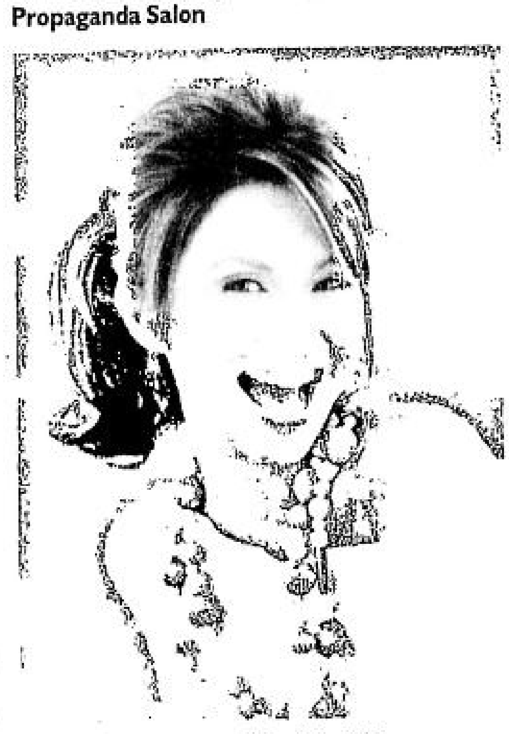
"BE Rockin'," interpreted by Jing Monis of Propaganda Salon



"BE Fresh," created and interpreted by Dujic for show-biz newcomer Eric Gonzales

WHEN cutting and layering hair, Dujic employs the point-cutting technique. Using a razor, he says, will damage hair and result to split ends.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS



DUJIC'S "BE Vibrant" look for TV personality Mariel Rodriguez

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P14each ZEST Papaya Soap 90g

P44each SKIN WHITE Whitening Lotion 100ml

P50.75each OVALTINE Pro Active 160g

P112.50each NESVITA Original Flavor 30g (10's)

P42/box ZESTO Orange 200ml

P471each LACTUM Vanilla 1.8kg

P318each NIVEA SUN Sun Block Lotion (SPF 50) 150ml

P44each SPLASH Control Setting Lotion (Clear) 500g

P23.15each BON BON Bihon 500g

P25.30each NESTLE Carnation Evap 378ml

P27.75each BEST FOODS Mayo Magic (Budget Pack) 220ml

P120.25each OVALTINE Pro Active 450g

P200each NIVEA SUN Cooling After Sun Spray 200ml

P20each ZEST Papaya Soap 120g

P48/box ZESTO Mango 200ml

P8.25each OVALTINE Pro Active 25g

P10.55each CLOVER CHIPS Barbecue Flavor 55g

P381each NIVEA SUN Children's Sun Spray (SPF 40) 200ml

P29each SPEED Premium Powder w/ Fabric Conditioner 80g (6's)

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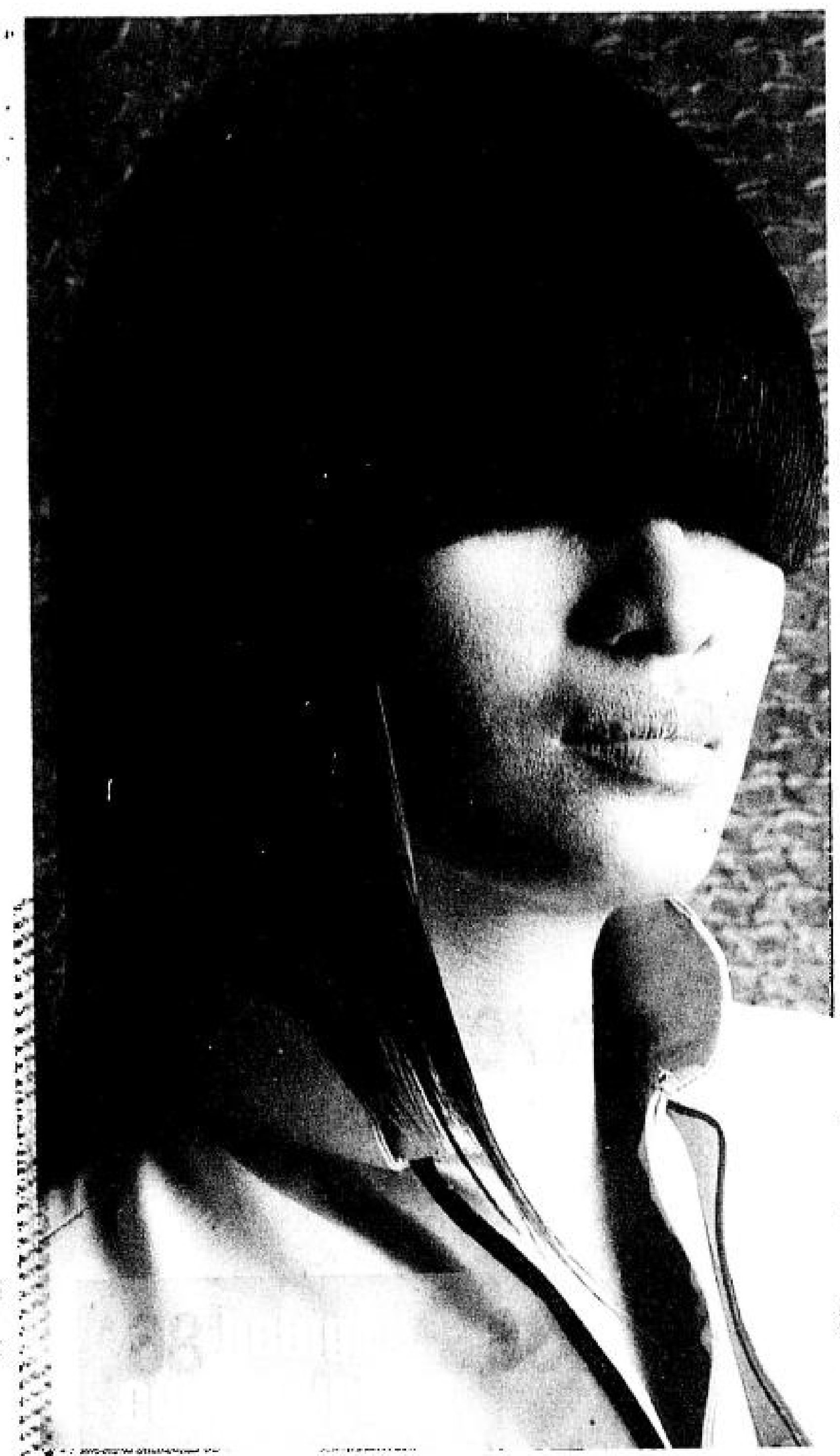
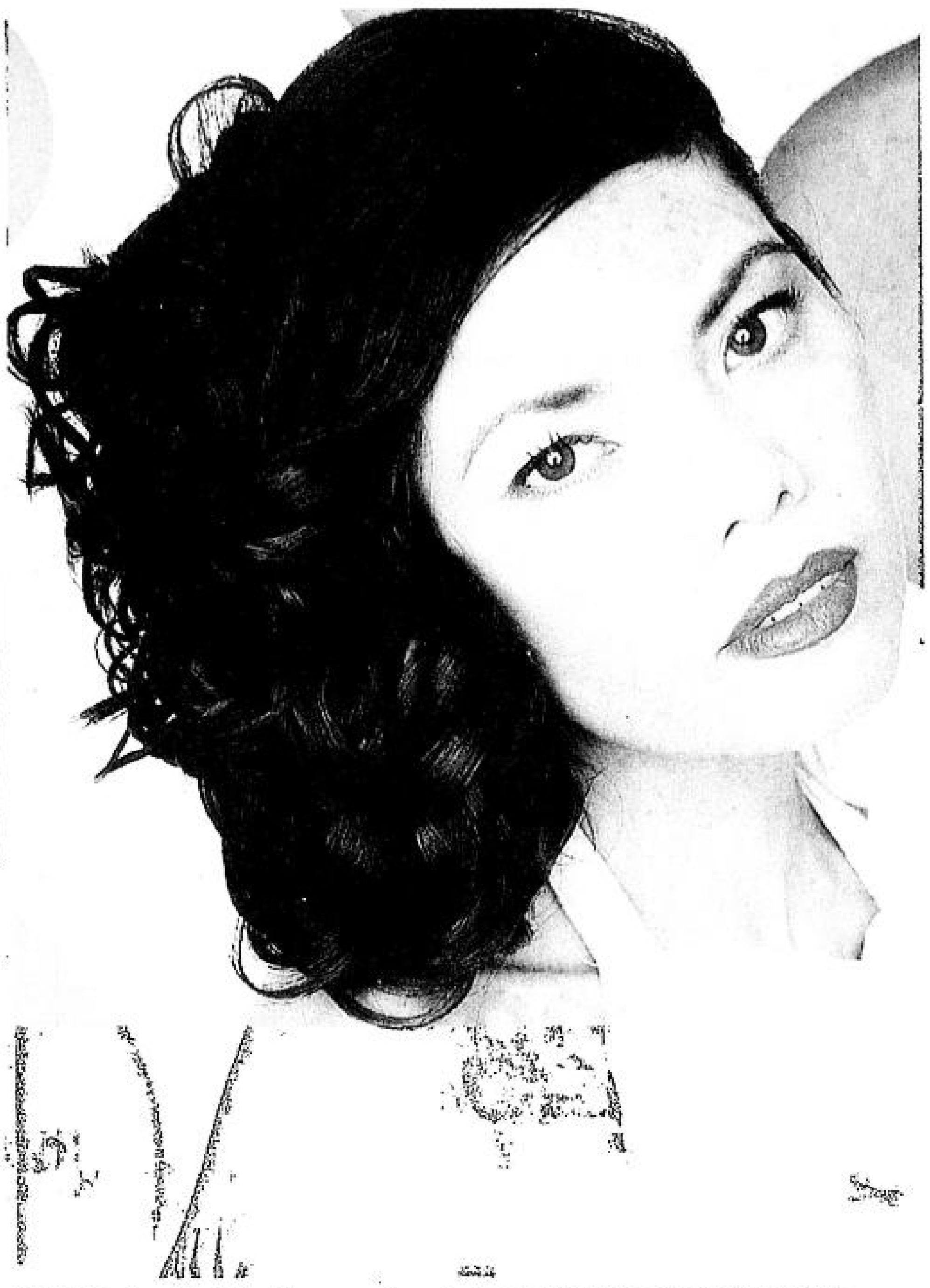
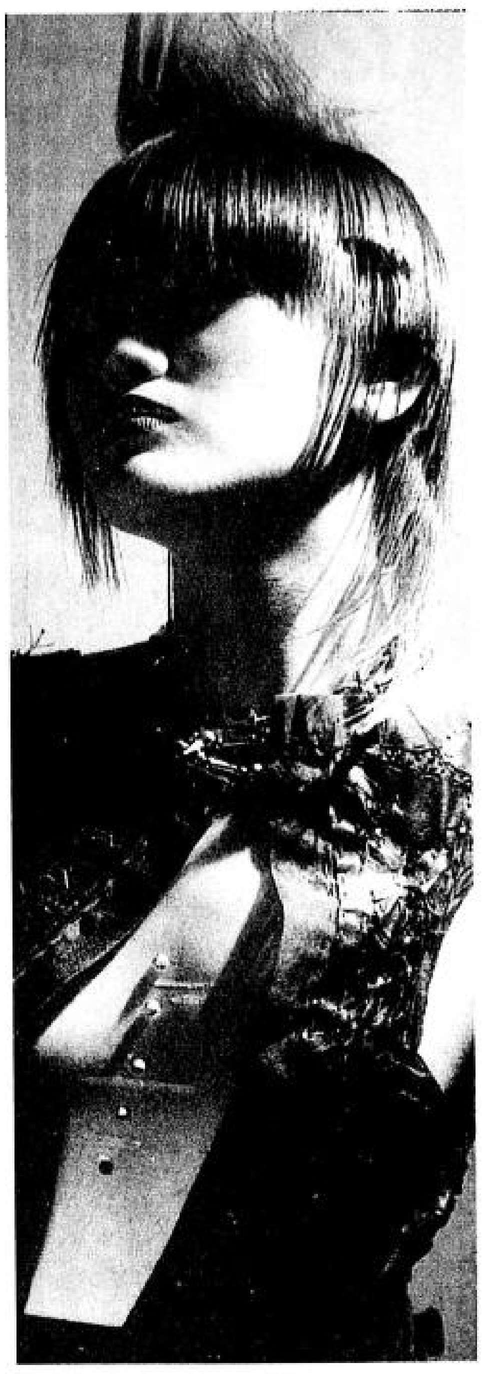
- Nepo Mall Dagupan



"BEING constructive" is shaped by sharp lines and very accurate angles, all balanced by colors that harmoniously blend with one another. Waves and curls are precise, and short hair cuts are defined by clear lines and meticulously styled parts.



"BEING in love" is defined by romantic and voluminous waves, curls that speak of femininity and delicate ribbons that cascade down luscious tresses. Hues that range from golden blonde to deep brown to mysterious red set the pace for this luxe trend.



"BEING REBELLIOUS." This attitude is interpreted via styles that speak of confidence. Wild and uncouth colors of green, gray and blue define this bold trend, while highlights are scattered using modern styling techniques.

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Four hair trends for 2005

GLOBAL hair giant Wella is unveiling Trend Vision, a fashion forward program that forecasts and dictates the cutting-edge styles in hair design for the new year, at this year's Philippine Fashion Week, presented by Audie and Joey Espino of Runway Productions, on March 28-April 6.

Lisbon, Portugal, was the scene for the earlier Trend Vision Workshop, where topnotch international stylists whipped up four fresh yet definitive hair trends called: "Being Naïve," "Being Rebellious," "Being In Love" and "Being Constructive."

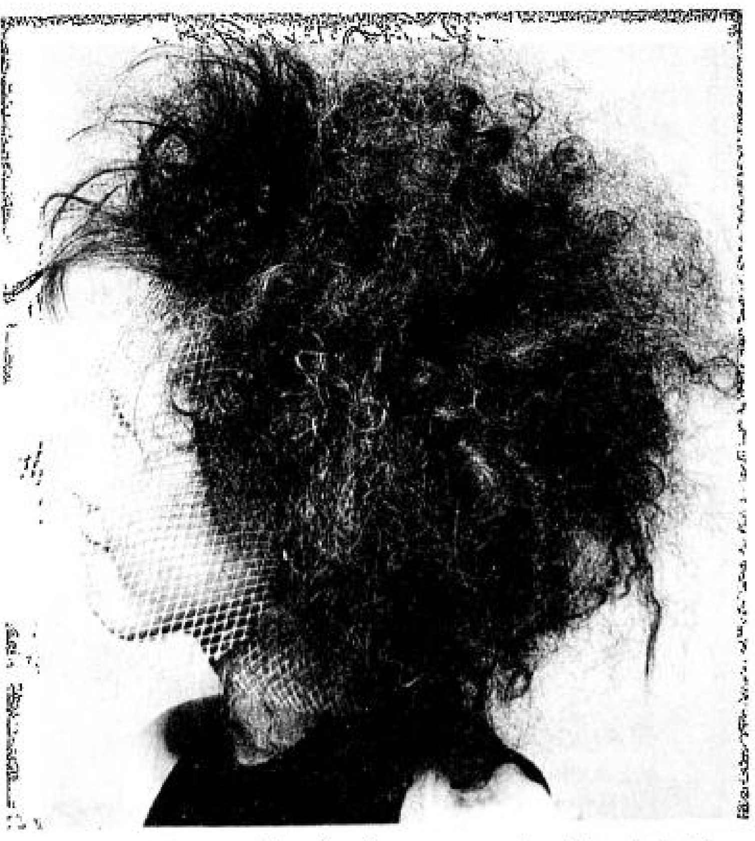
Manila had a first glimpse of Trend Vision 2005 when Sonja and Christopher Dove, Wella International creative directors, presented their interpretation of the four hairstyles in last year's Trend Vision Awards Philippines.

At the forthcoming Philippine Fashion Week, the nation's leading hairstylists will join forces with the hippest young designers to create fabulous coiffure and couture via a gala night on April 4 at the NBC Tent dubbed "Wella Unveils the Young Avant-Garde Collection."

"Wella, through its annual international Trend Vision project, transforms the mega-trends of the future into creative hairstyling directions, resulting in a pool of style innovations and inspirations for hair stylists," says Wella Philippines managing director Rebecca Lopez. "The Philippine Fashion Week is the ideal venue for presenting Trend Vision not only to the professional hairdressing community but also to consumers which the hairdressing industry serves."

For this year, Trend Vision 2005 focuses on the Circle of Life. The four hair trends present hair fashions that run the gamut of formative life stages. As one grows from an innocent youth to a rebellious teen to a whimsical romantic to a pragmatic constructivist, life decisions change and, consequently, so do hairstyles.

Participating hairstylists will include David Charlton, Jesi Mendez, Pin Antonio, Agi Montelino and Linda Francisco. Complementing the hairstyles are the collections of avant-garde designers Avel Bacudio, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Ivarluski Aseron, James Reyes, Joey Samson, Louie Claparols, Mel Vergel de Dios, Mitzi Quilendro, Nikka Velayo, Reian Mata, Robi Lolin and Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo.



"BEING naïve" covers hairstyles that are natural, unintended and playful, emphasized through glittering jewel accessories or bold highlights in natural browns, blazing reds and baby blondes.

LIFESTYLE

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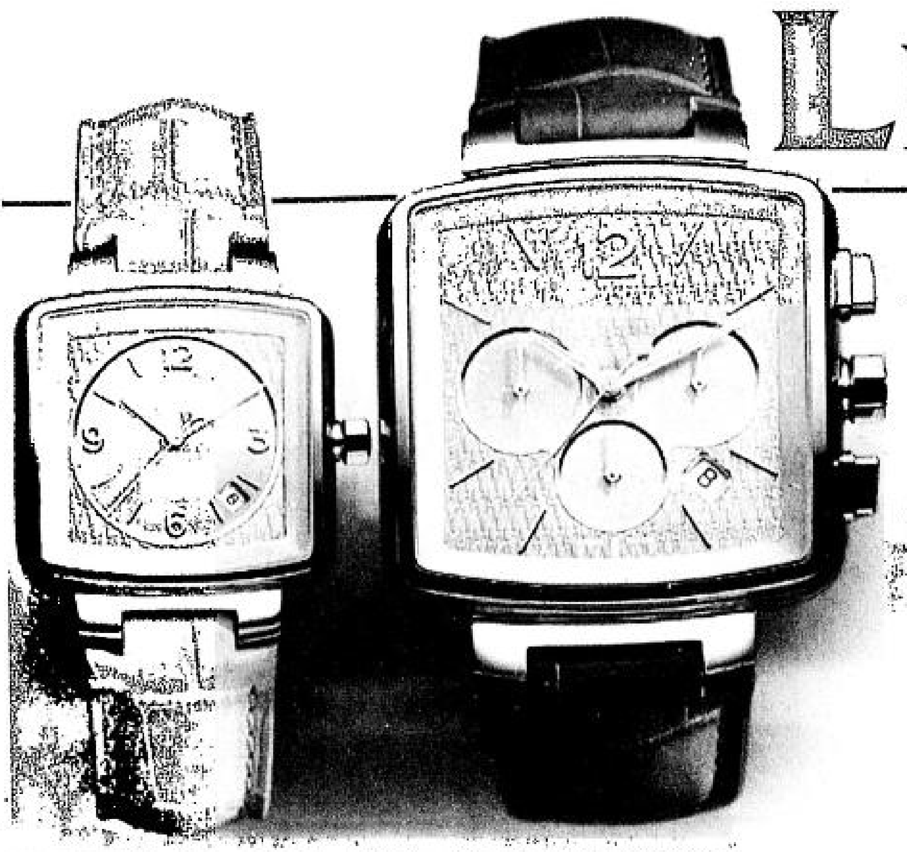


THE LATEST offering from Louis Vuitton: the Speedy Lady Quartz and Automatic Chronograph

Louis Vuitton has launched Speedy watch, a travel watch like no other

THE GIRLS from Manila strike a pose with Albert Bensoussan, watch department director of Louis Vuitton.

Another classic in the making?

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION classics are always a worthy investment. They are timeless pieces that improve with age and can be passed on from one generation to the next. Not everyone will agree but those who enjoy, appreciate and savor fashion as an art form will understand.

Louis Vuitton, one of the world's leading luxury brands, has always been known for crafting classic pieces. Point in case, the Speedy bag (my personal favorite from the LV collection), which was created in 1930 and is still tremendously popular. To this day, it's flying off the shelves and selling like the proverbial hotcake.

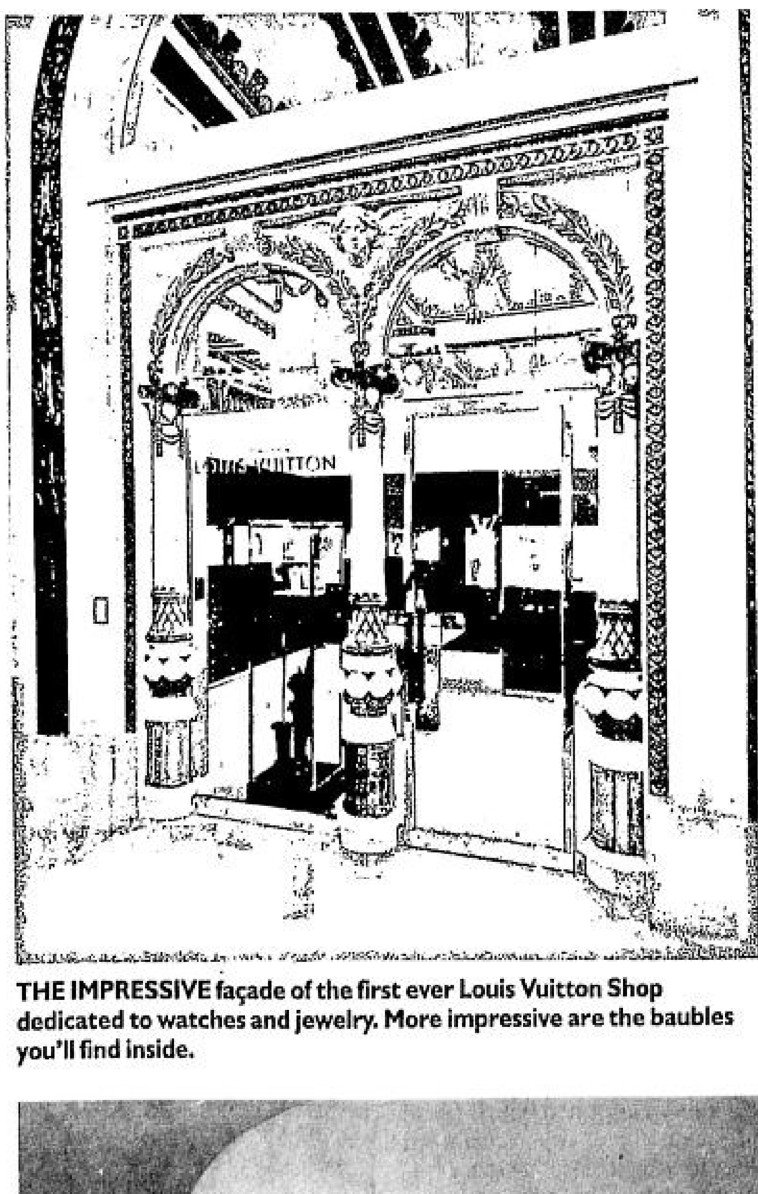
Needless to say, I am quite the fan of LV. I admire the way they've maintained their .exclusivity, quality and craftsmanship, while keeping abreast of the latest trends. So, when my editor asked me to fly to Hong Kong to cover the launch of LV's new watch line, I was thrilled.

As expected, Louis Vuitton handled the whole event with understated class and ease. I was billeted at the Grand Hyatt hotel together with other press delegations from the Philippines and all over Asia. From there, we were whisked off to several events, first of which was a viewing of the first ever Louis Vuitton store dedicated to watches and jewelry. Located at the east lobby of the impressive Peninsula Hong Kong, the luxurious boutique is eye candy in itself with its chic design concept by famous architect Peter Marino. Of course, all this only serves as an introduction to what lies within: an even more impressive collection of precious jewels and watches, specifically the Tambour, LV's first watch line launched in 2002

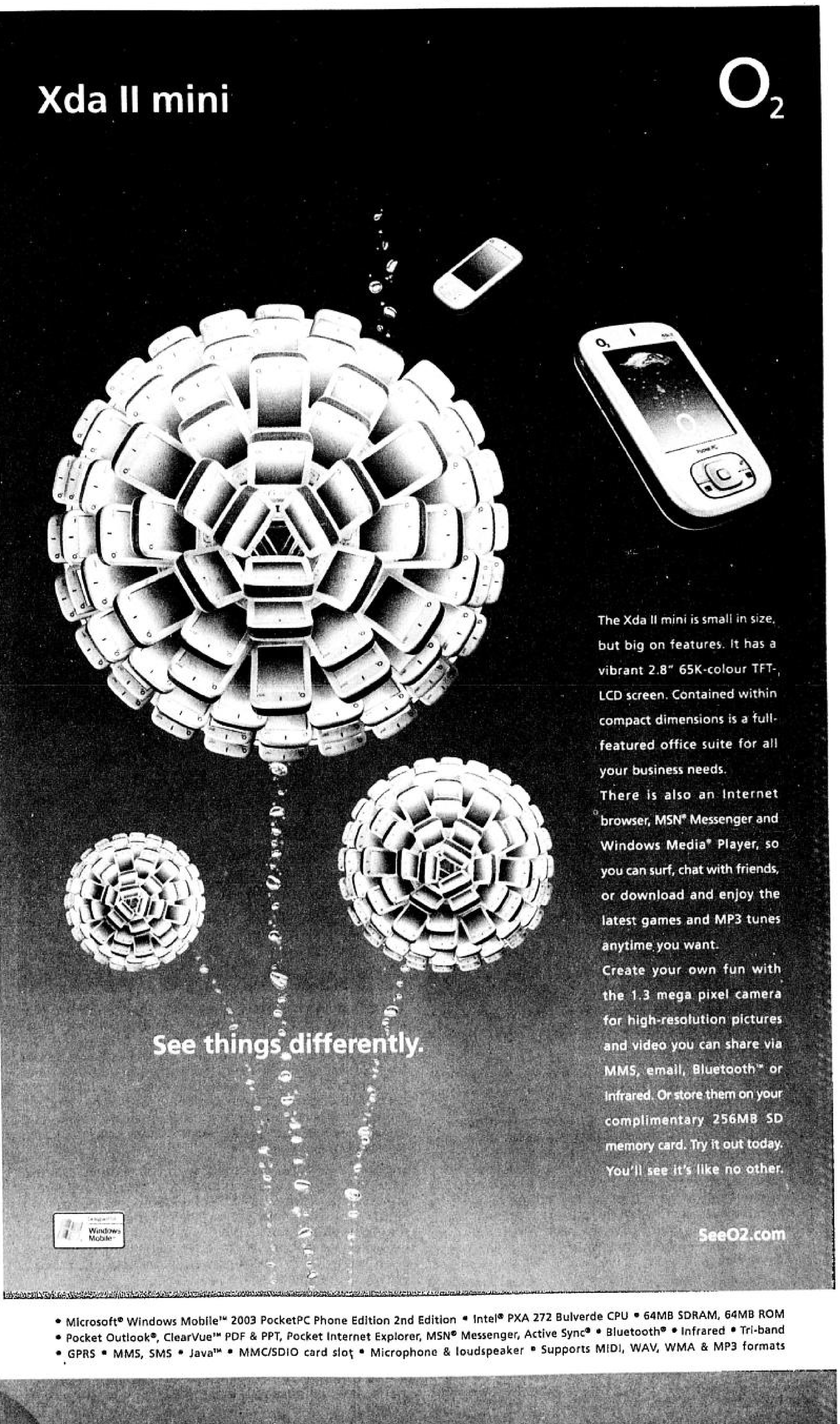
Travel-inspired

The main event was yet to come. After the store visit, we moved to the tony and exclusive Club Lusitano, with its extraordinary floor-to-ceiling windows and crystal fiber optic-lit high ceiling, for the presentation of

ANOTHER/ G2



THE IMPRESSIVE façade of the first ever Louis Vuitton Shop dedicated to watches and jewelry. More impressive are the baubles you'll find inside.



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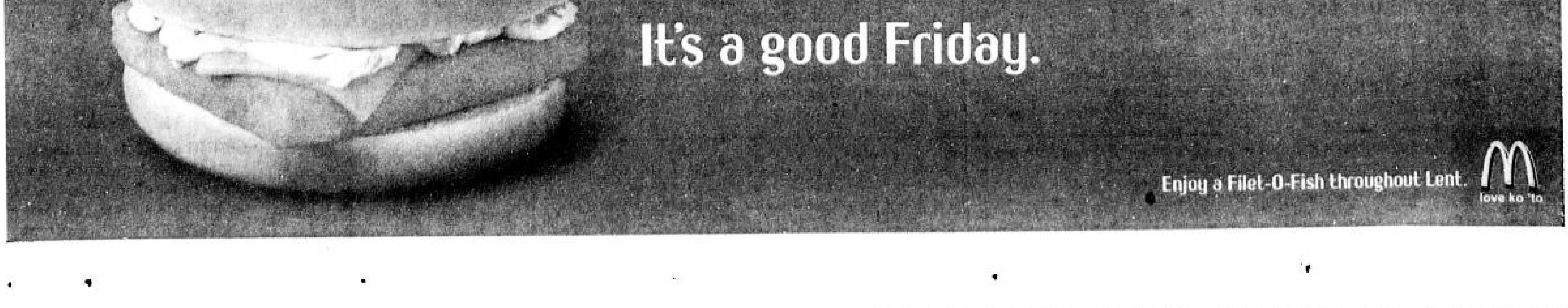
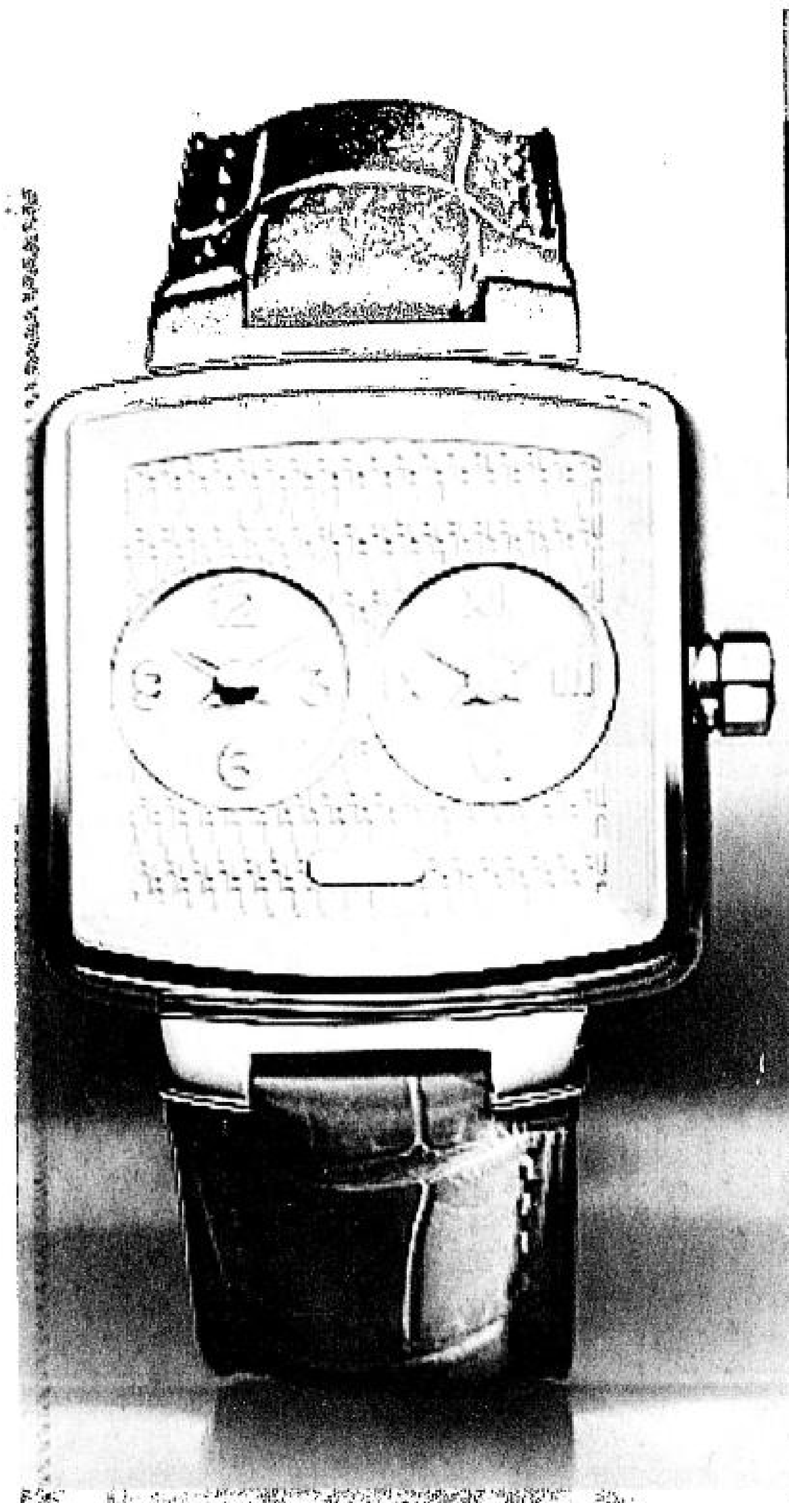


It's a good Friday.

Enjoy a Filet-O-Fish throughout Lent.

love ko 'to



MY FAVORITE Speedy style, the Duojet, which is perfect for the savvy, sophisticated traveler.

SPEEDY
LOUIS VUITTON

HUSBANDS/APPOINTED photographers Raj Sadhwani and Sander Tantoco with Louis Vuitton's senior press and public relations manager Andrew Glenn and Philippine Star's Mons Romulo-Tantoco.

LOUIS Vuitton Philippines brand manager Rhea de Vera, Metro Magazine's Melanie Cuevas and Lifestyle Asia's Celine Novenario check out the Speedy collection.

Another classic in the making?

From page G1

the Speedy watch line. Albert Bensoussan, Louis Vuitton watch department director, was on hand to explain their latest baby.

The modern and sleek timepiece was inspired by travel, thus the use of colors of the sky. It also features the Damier pattern in the back and in tiny grains in the face, reflecting its urban-inspired square face.

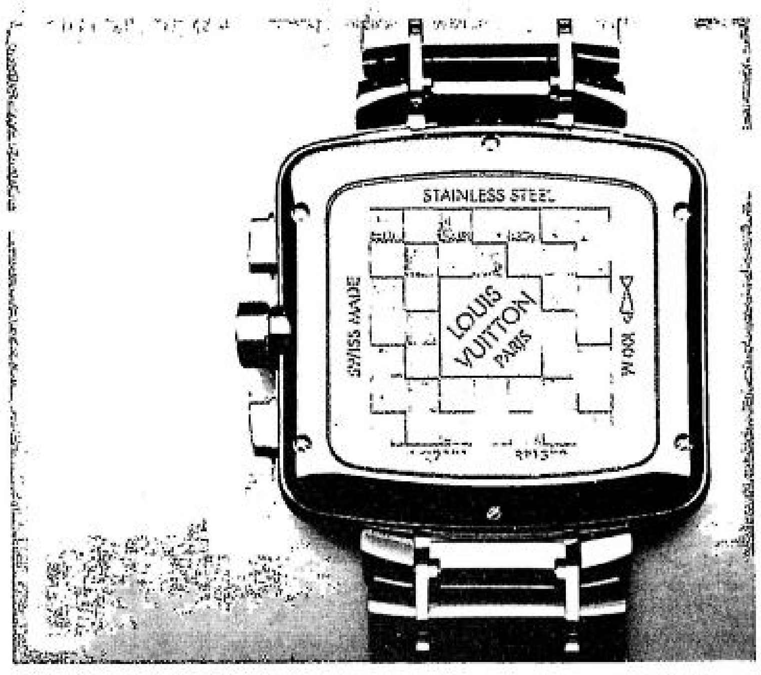
It comes in three styles. The Automatic Chronograph, which is available with a brown or yellow alligator strap and a steel bracelet, the Lady Quartz watch, which is available with a light blue, orange or alligator strap as well as a steel bracelet and, my favorite, the Duojet, a timepiece with two dials that function in synchronization, thus, enabling the wearer to adapt to different time zones. What's special about it is that time zones can vary by 15 minutes, therefore, giving the traveler the most exact time. This movement was especially developed for Louis Vuitton.

But what's the point of having yet another watch line in an already saturated market? According to Bensoussan, they are not positioning themselves against other brands. Instead, they aim to uphold Louis Vuitton's value of exclusivity. "It's all about an attraction, an emotional link. Plus, the attentiveness we put into all our products. This watch is for someone who understands."

So, is this the making of yet another classic? Only time will tell (no pun intended!). But if you appreciate quality, fine attention to detail, creativity and know-how, this timepiece is for you.

The Speedy watch collection will be available in Louis Vuitton stores in April.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



THE BACK of the Speedy watch case is engraved with the Damier pattern. Such features are a testament to Louis Vuitton's fine attention to detail.

Got the JITTERS?

By: Liz O. Luna

Whether you're having an intimate ceremony or a lavish seaside wedding, all brides have one thing in common – cold feet. Also known as the wedding jitters, men have been reported to experience the same phenomenon, but almost always, it's the woman who is more greatly affected, as it is her main responsibility to put such an event together.

If you are feeling anxious before your altar date, it's quite understandable. After all, you are making the most important decision of your adult life. It just so happens that you have to attend to a million and one other details simultaneously.

What are the proper titles of each of your 12 pairs of principal sponsors? Which wine complements the Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Cabernet Sauvignon Sauce you chose for your reception's main course? Which blush shade accentuates your features? Where do you seat the widowed Tita Carol as she couldn't possibly sit at table #15 with the Cruzes (after having a falling out with them in 2001)?

Aware that each decision you make speaks of your taste and personality, every single detail seems of equal importance with the rest. Everything should be perfect – your special day is definitely not the day to lose face in front of all those people (especially your future in-laws!).

It doesn't help to learn that some of those wedding horror stories are actually true. A friend of mine was confident that her obsessive/compulsive nature would guarantee her the perfect wedding even without hiring an event planner. Come nuptial time, the flowers for her and her entourage arrived late. As a result, the bridal party's pre-church photograph session was pushed back by a couple of hours. She then rushed to the church sans her immediate family and while she got there in time, her father, delayed by heavy traffic, was deprived of the once-in-a-lifetime honor of walking his daughter down the aisle. On top of that, her young niece – a first-time flower girl – didn't get to parade as well.

Alas! Is it any wonder why the thought of tying the knot leaves you feeling like your insides are in knots?

However, the cause of your cold feet is something more serious than all this. At the back of your mind, you know that what you are actually preparing yourself for is the marriage itself – long after the visitors have left, after the gifts have been opened and after you've come back from your honeymoon.

You wonder: how are you going to make your marriage work when now, with him just being your fiancé, you are easily irritated by certain manners, habits and opinions? All of a sudden his throaty laugh – which you thought was sexy early on in your relationship – is getting on your nerves. And do you honestly think you could live forever with somebody who sneezes like that? Indeed, pressure has a tendency to magnify annoying behaviors. Some couples attest to the fact that they had never quarreled as much as they did as when they prepared for their big day.

According to Wishful Weddings' Vivienne Ledesma, who is a bride-to-be herself, it is quite natural to feel frustrated and anxious. "My fiancé and I have what you call a 'turbulent relationship' and for sure, the added stress of preparing our wedding will test us even more." This lady – responsible for staging successful weddings for countless couples – admits, "Nothing compares to the tension of organizing your own wedding. Even with years of experience in planning such an event, I feel even more stressed now because I know this is my wedding and my future life I'm preparing for."

The engagement period is the perfect time to rethink your relationship and to rule out any doubts you may have about his feelings for you (and vice versa of course). Heck, even those who have been an item for years are not exempt from ultimately realizing that they are incompatible. Vivienne adds, "It's important that every detail about the couple is brought out in the open because after the wedding, there's simply no turning back. I myself would not hesitate to call the whole thing off if I discover that my fiancé is keeping secrets from me."

So, have a heart-to-heart talk with your fiancé. Discuss how you both feel about certain issues. Thresh out details about religion, finances, familial relations, even as to with which spouse's family you are celebrating the holidays. Any misgivings and suspicions must be expressed and resolved. Why, if just about anybody in your wedding is given the chance to "speak now or forever hold your peace", surely you're entitled to have your say.

The bottom line is, weddings don't usually turn out in the perfect way the bride imagined it to be. And you know what? The same is true about marriage. But which do you think you should put more thought into? In time, you'd get over an imperfect ceremony (which most will probably be too drunk to remember anyway) but your choice of spouse is something YOU have to live with for the rest of your life.

At some point in your life, you've probably asked an elderly female relative or friend who has been married for a long time, "How did you know that he was the one?" While she would probably relay to you the most profound and romantic story of how she and her husband came to be, the truth is, you really won't be able to tell until after the fact. Simply approach this major milestone in your life with an open mind and an open heart – and then maybe you can save the butterflies for your church exit instead of having them in your stomach.

This is an INQuest Adventure game clue
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GRACING THE PARTY. On Rachel: purple tulle dress with jersey lining, rose brooch and shirred back; on Elizabeth: Thai silk dress with beaded bodice and organza underskirt

Graduating in style

LOOK grand on graduation day without spending a fortune.

Karimadon, now celebrating its 25th year, offers a wide selection of pretty and affordable graduation dresses.

Karimadon's 13 stores in Metro Manila and some provinces carry full-length gowns and cocktail dresses in chiffon, jersey, lace, velvet and other fabrics. They are available in lavender, pink, yellow and green.

Karimadon also offers the following tips in choosing a graduation dress:

- Choose a style that's comfortable. The graduation ceremony takes at least two hours. Make sure you will be able to walk, sit and stand with ease in your graduation dress.
- Make sure you can walk in your shoes. Some schools insist that students wear their graduation shoes during rehearsals. Try to avoid stilettos or pointy toed shoes if you are top heavy.
- Get a nice bag that's big enough for your compact powder, comb and lipstick for touch-ups, a coin purse for emergency payments, hanky and camera.
- Choose hairdo and makeup that are simple but will bring out your best features. Leave the bright-red lipstick and funky eyeshadow for the post-graduation party.

Check out Karimadon's gowns and cocktail dresses in branches at SM North Edsa Main Building, SM City Annex, SM Fairview, SM Bacoor, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint, SM Marilao, SM Pampanga, Glorietta 1, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; and Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita and Robinsons Metro East.

GRAND STYLE. On Elizabeth: ruffled chiffon wrap dress with matching rose brooch and shawl; on Rachel: black-and-pink jersey dress with cabbage rose accent

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

YOUNG, feminine and fun. The Fiorucci watch collection with colorful, fancy and fashionable dials and straps

Forever young

FIORUCCI remains young despite three decades in the fashion scene.

Promoting an active, sexy and independent image, it continues to set the pace in fulfilling the young consumers' desires and needs.

Elio Fiorucci's fashion career started in retailing in the late swinging '60s. Then his Milano store became the focus of new ideas and novelties in 1974 and his career as a "designer" took off internationally.

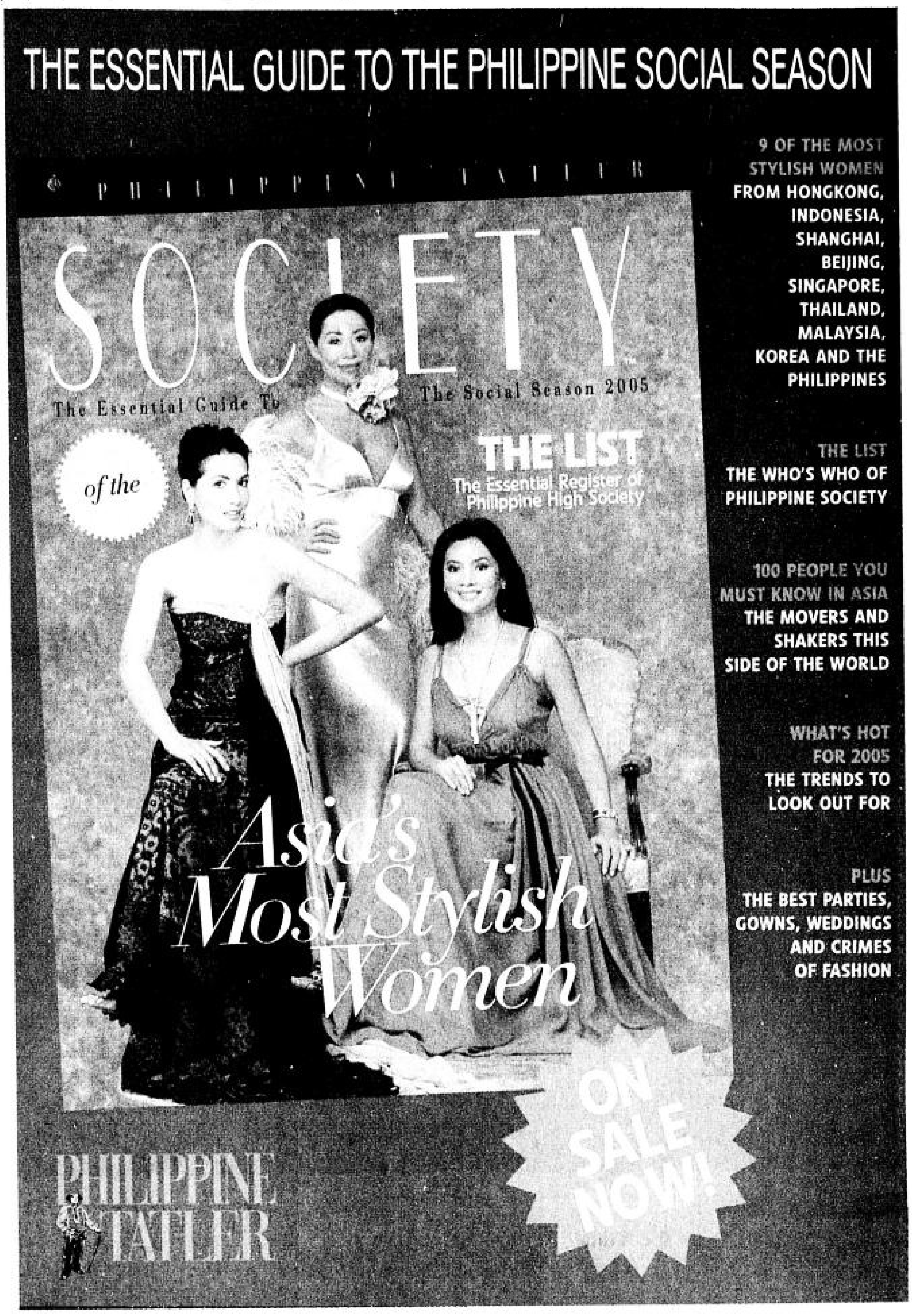
Fiorucci made fashion history and became known for colorful and exciting garments and accessories.

He opened stores in New York, London, Los Angeles, Paris and other parts of Europe. The Fiorucci Company linked up with avant-garde artists like Andy Warhol, Keith Harings and I.D. founder Terry Jones known for his graphics and packaging or decoration using the photography of Oliviero Toscani for his imaginative and innovative advertising. Fiorucci shops were designed by architects such as Sotsasss and the Mendini Brothers.

Fiorucci products are available in all Silverworks outlets nationwide.

FIORUCCI green floral watch with double-layer dial

GRAY Fiorucci watch with the Fiorucci angels trademark dial



THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SEASON

9 OF THE MOST STYLISH WOMEN FROM HONGKONG, INDONESIA, SHANGHAI, BEIJING, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES

THE LIST
THE WHO'S WHO OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY

100 PEOPLE YOU MUST KNOW IN ASIA
THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS THIS SIDE OF THE WORLD

WHAT'S HOT FOR 2005
THE TRENDS TO LOOK OUT FOR

PLUS
THE BEST PARTIES, GOWNS, WEDDINGS AND CRIMES OF FASHION

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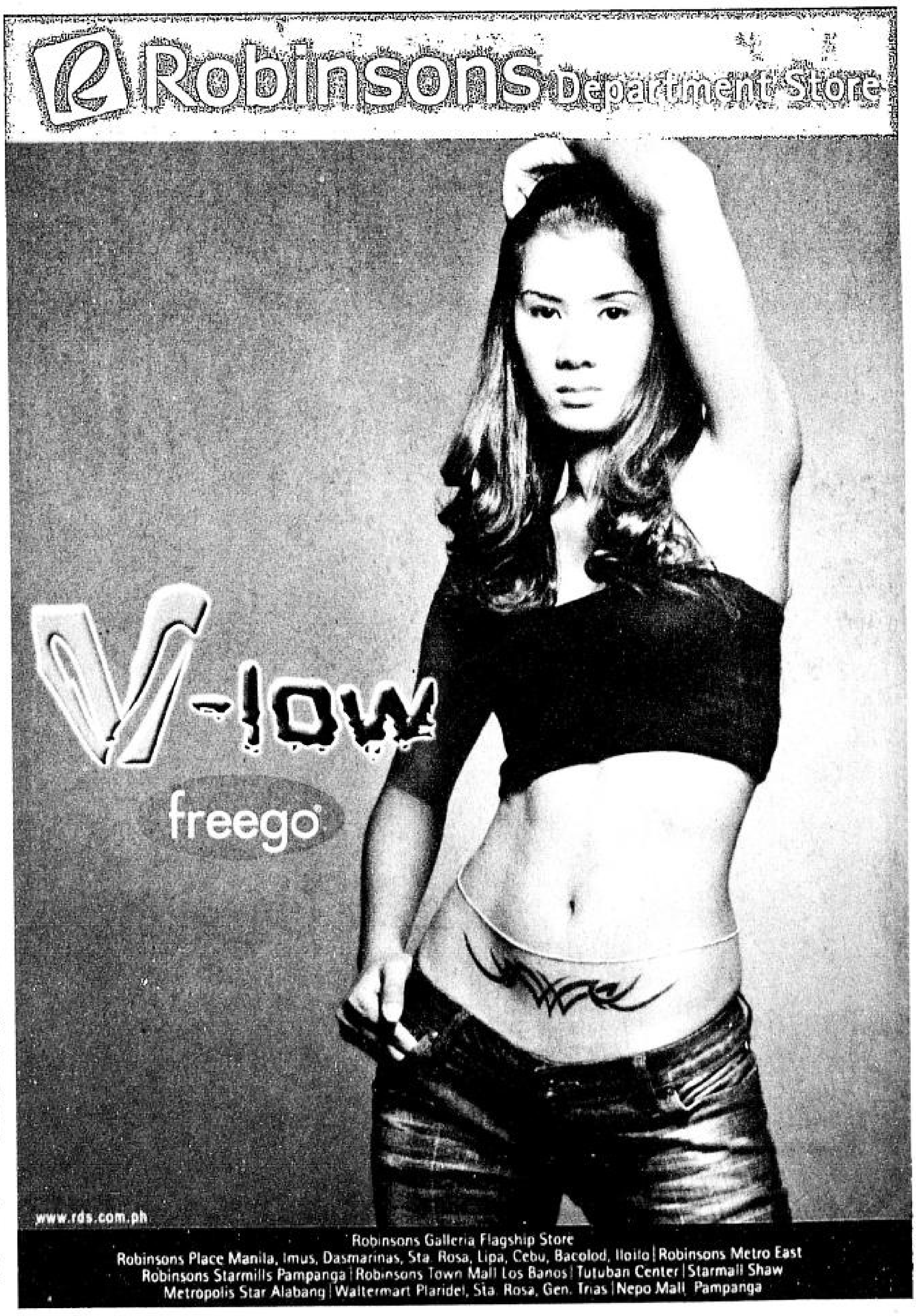

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THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE Duty FREE.

WINE-COLORED Crissa tube top paired with a denim jacket and camel-brown slacks by Liberte

A1 colored tweed halter top paired with dark denim jeans by Freego

For the fair lady

ROBINSONS Department Store (RDS) is holding "Ladies Fair" until March 31, highlighting the fashionista in every woman.

The fair offers a wide selection of day-through-night glamour items at affordable prices!

Women can try a dark denim zip-down motorcycle jacket and camel brown pants with a Crissa plum tube under-dress. A striking set of necklace and bracelet from Miladay can complete the look. From Liberté comes a classic black spaghetti-strap stretch blouse over mustard striped flared pants.

Another possibility is a colored halter tweed top paired with a classic dark Freego denim or A1's black-and-white psychedelic-print haltered top.

Visit the nearest Robinsons Department Stores in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Starmall-Shaw, Metropolis and Festival Malls in Alabang and Nepo Mall-Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph

A1 printed halter top

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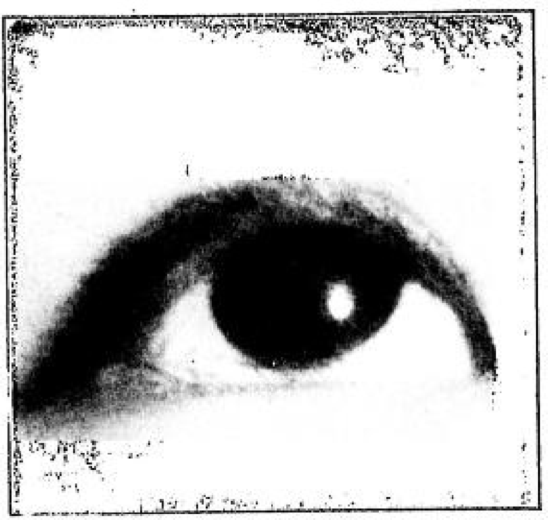

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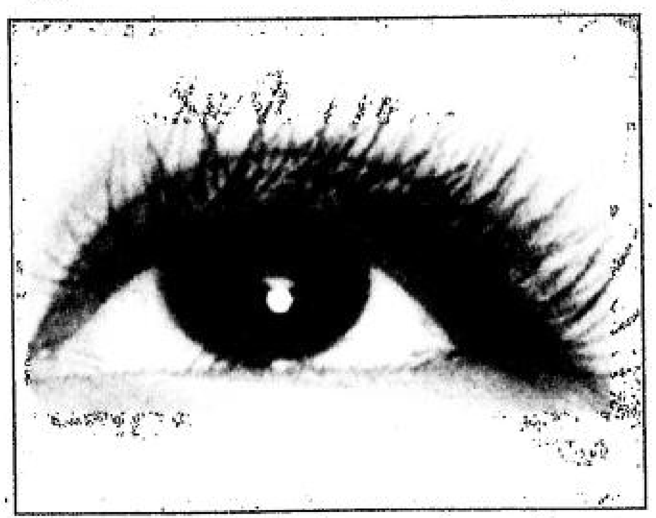

AFTER

It's getting to be, to women—and a few men—what hair rebond was the last two years

More and more are batting their eyelash (extensions)

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHEN **Ricky Reyes** told me that "eyelash extension is the new blow-dry," I didn't pay much attention. In Bangkok last week, I suddenly saw how right he was.

New blow-dry? He was using a figure of speech to indicate how universal eyelash extension is becoming, the way blow-dry has been integrated into our daily hair regimen through time.

(You know how people felt free to talk in a figurative way since **Diana Vreeland** said in India: "Pink is the navy blue of India;" because, as my social arbiter **Joey Panlilio** reminds me, Vreeland found pink everywhere—not in the same way surely, he says, that pink is now all over Metro Manila, as in MMDA pink urinals. Anyway, since Vreeland, the metaphor use was just optimized beyond

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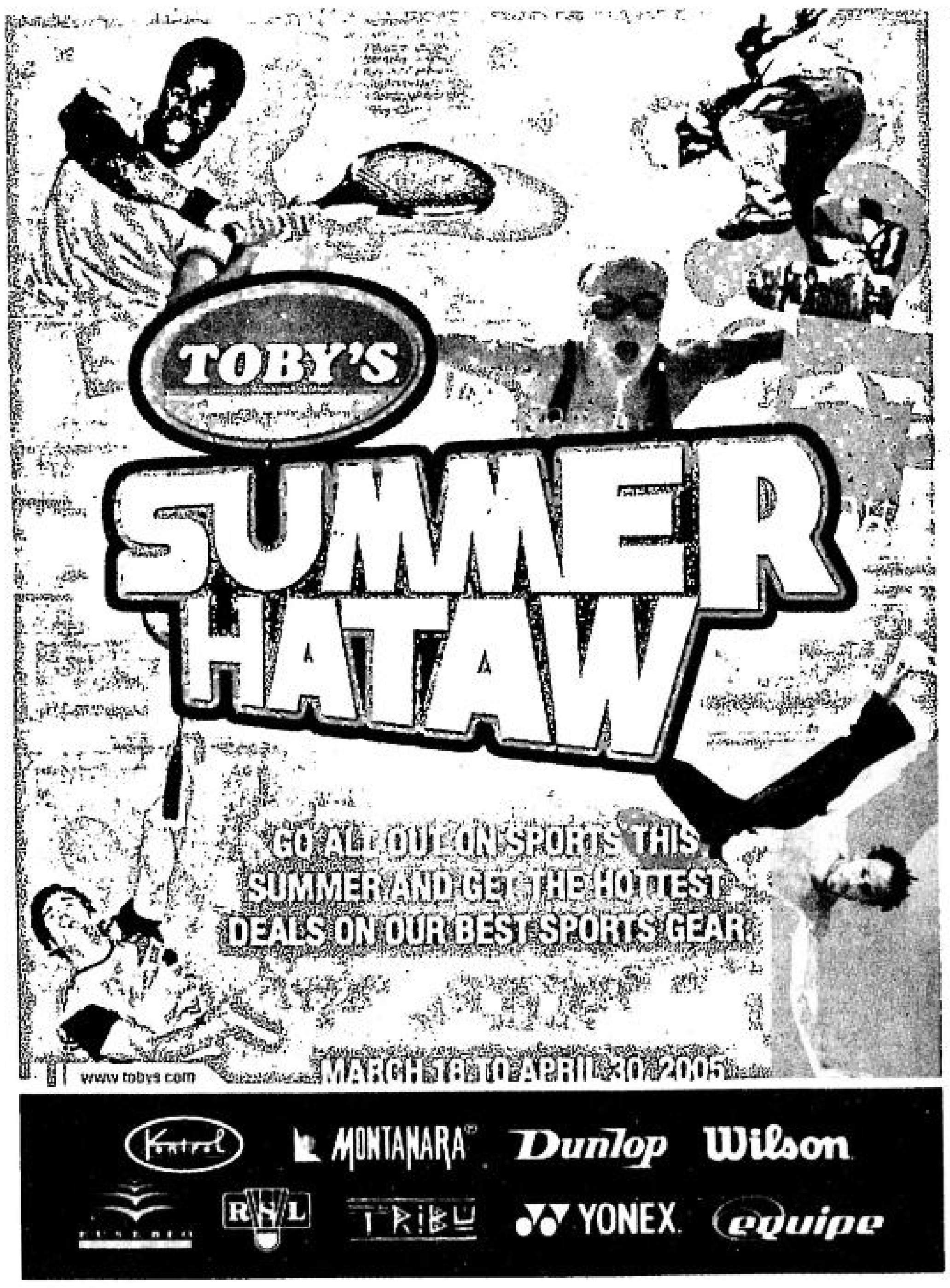
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1431, Series of 2005



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Lucy Torres-Gomez

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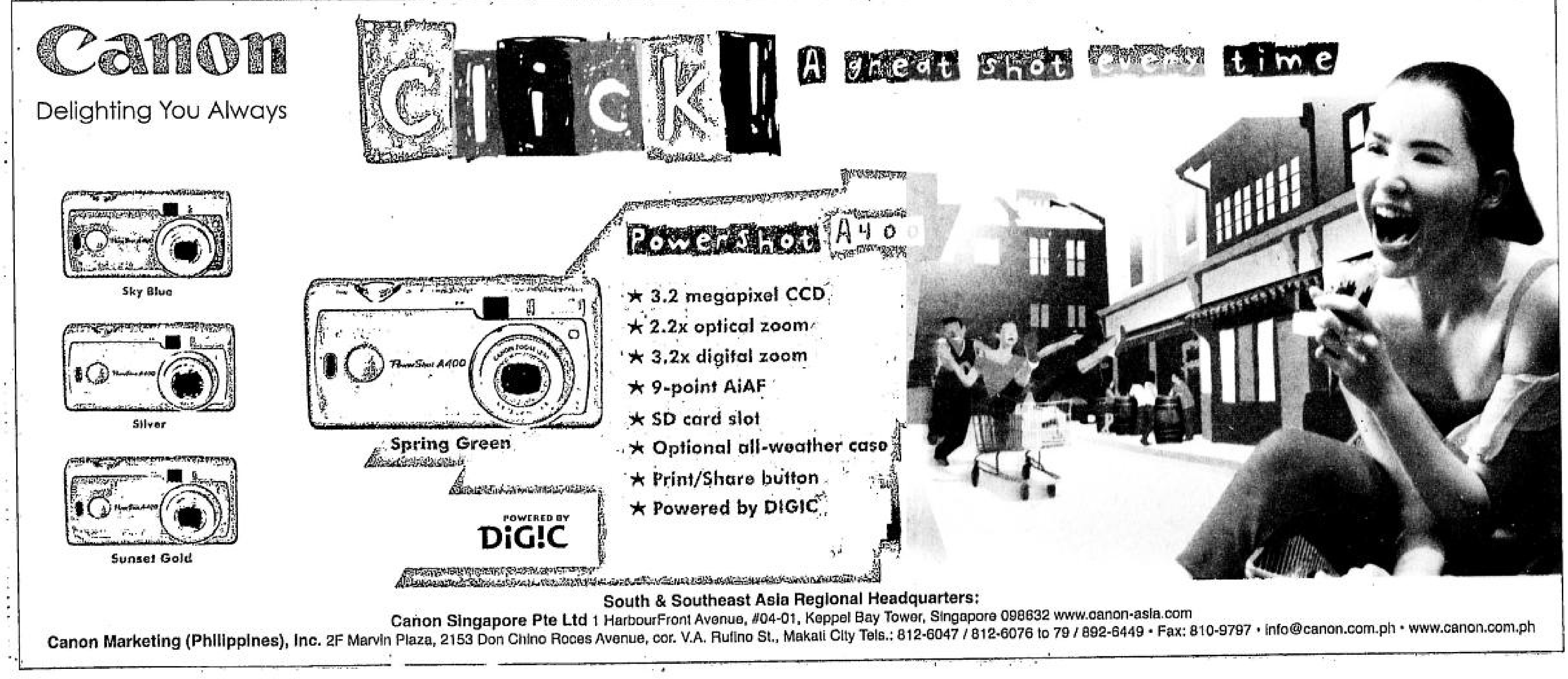

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BEBETH Timbol, Paolo Pineda, ace photographer Raymund Isaac and vivacious Minelli Bautista

THE BLACK brigade. Denise Albert, marketing manager, Sari-Sari Stores; Mai Gonzales, brand manager, Solar-RPN; and Denise Seva, marketing manager, Solar-RPN

RENOWNED actress/singer Pinky Amador with free-again businessman Jacques Dupasquier

LET'S HAVE more of this. Peter Chan Liong, COO of Solar Entertainment, with event host Bianca Valerio

Hurrah for Hollywood!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

WHEN glamour hit town, it came sashaying down the red carpet in the arms of the fab Solar Entertainment. Trust Solar big bosses—**Wilson Tieng** and his pal, **Peter Chan Liong**, to bring glitzy Hollywood to Manille, and they did so in a big bash at the chi-chi Mandarin Oriental's super cool Paseo Uno poolside. It was the pre-Oscar bash, *palanggas*.

If you didn't know, Solar Entertainment was responsible for the live telecast this year of the Oscar Awards on RPN 9.

The partying pack were brought to the bash in chauffeured luxurious Jaguars. They included local tinseltown's elegant A-list of stars, such as forever gorgeous **Lorna Tolentino**; **Giselle Töngi** and her husband **Tim Walters**, who were still on cloud 9 from their honeymoon in Boracay; Hollywood celebrity chef **Ron Bilaro** (who wore a clash of outfits); twin stars **Richard** and **Raymond Gutierrez**; vibrant **Pinky Amador**; **Bernard Palanca**; foxy lady **Phoemela Baranda**; top model and VJ **Joey Mead** and the bean-slim and newly married **Lexi Schulze**; Mega Magazine's new editor, **Carla Sibal**; and the fab **Chinggay Andrada** with the love of her life, architect **Victor Consunji**. Cube Interactive kept track of the faces. Talk about a full house.

Fashion stylist **Angelo Villanueva** took home a pair of Gucci sunglasses for his know-how of Oscar trivia. Raymond Gutierrez and **Kat Tan** were voted "the best hairdo," while Rep. **Miles Roces** and **Georgina Wilson** were voted "best in black." Summer is here, *palanggas*, let's give black a siesta till the rains arrive in May. It's white, pink and more light colors.

Needless to say, loot bags stuffed with goodies were given to the night-lifers. The bags came from the sponsors—Nivea Visage, Nizoral, Rustan's Essenses, Mega Magazine, Tigi Bed Head, Vita Video, RX 93.1 and Essensuals Toni & Guy. Everyone went home from this pre-Oscar's bash a winner! Cool, huh!

Rotary's movie night

The one-hectare property of **Oliverio "Oli" Laperal Jr.** in posh-y Forbes Park was glitz and glamour reinvented with its setup of a Hollywood movie event, for the super fundraising event of the the Rotary Club of Ayala.

Après its lavish grand inaugural ball and centennial induction rites, the Rotary, with its brilliant president, **Alberto "Dong" Rosal**, top officers and board of directors decided that the fundraiser be a themed party for partygoers to give, give and give for a very, very worthy cause, *palanggas*.

Yes, dahling, the Rotary did it beautifully by giving to the needy.

The Laperal mansion became a glitzy Hollywood foyer with authentic Hollywood memorabilia such as movie cameras and props, and life-size standees of icons like James Dean and Count Dracula.

Before you could bat an eyelash, *palanggas*, 40 Rotary centennial couples breezed in their, chi-chi "limousines," all in their favorite Hollywood movie characters.

Rotary's first couple, young business magnate **Dong Rosal** and his wife, vivacious socialite **Linda**, looked *tres* chic as Indiana Jones and Sandy of "Grease." TV celebrity, the beautiful **Trish Salvador Ocampo**, looked like she stepped out of the movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's." She came complete with a tiara.

The affair only shows that when these Rotarians (otherwise known as the "hotshot movers and shakers of the Makati City business community") party, it's always for a super cause. Since the entire budget for the shindig was all paid for by golden-hearted president, Dong Rosal, the contributions to the bash instead went to charity. Real cool, huh!

Lovapalooza dinner

With love still in the air, *palanggas*, Lovapalooza 2 producer **Albert Almendralejo**, president of Apogee Productions, and multitalented **Rachy Cuna**, gave a thank-you dinner at Casa Celestina, where an intimate gathering of their pals chilled out after producing the biggest Valentine's celebration to date. After all, Rachy C. designed that eye-catching Lovapalooza Commemorative Marker on Baywalk.

Kim Atienza and his *tres* elegant wife, **Fely**, led the list of VIP attendees like ABS-CBN Publishing GM **Thelma San Juan**, **Arnold Vegafria**, singer **Calvin Millado**, plus other close pals.

The guests feasted on El Comedor's yummy paella, the cholesterol-packed *lechon*, an array of wines and Fiorgelato ice cream.

While dining, they viewed footage of the Lovapalooza events throughout the country—in Cebu, Davao, Angeles and Manila.

For light entertainment, acoustic sensation **Paolo Santos** serenaded the gang as little Lovapalooza heart-shaped pillows were given out "as a token for everyone's hard work and commitment to the event," easily the love-liest affair of the year for many, *palanggas*.

HOTSHOT Wilson Tieng, Solar Entertainment chair

HEY, I JUST WON! Rep. Miles Roces wins a "Best in Black" award.

STUNNINGLY gorgeous model Ciara Sevilla

BREATHTAKING Lorna Tolentino

OKAY, pals or lovers? Beauty and brains Ria Romero with good-looking Paolo Cabalfin

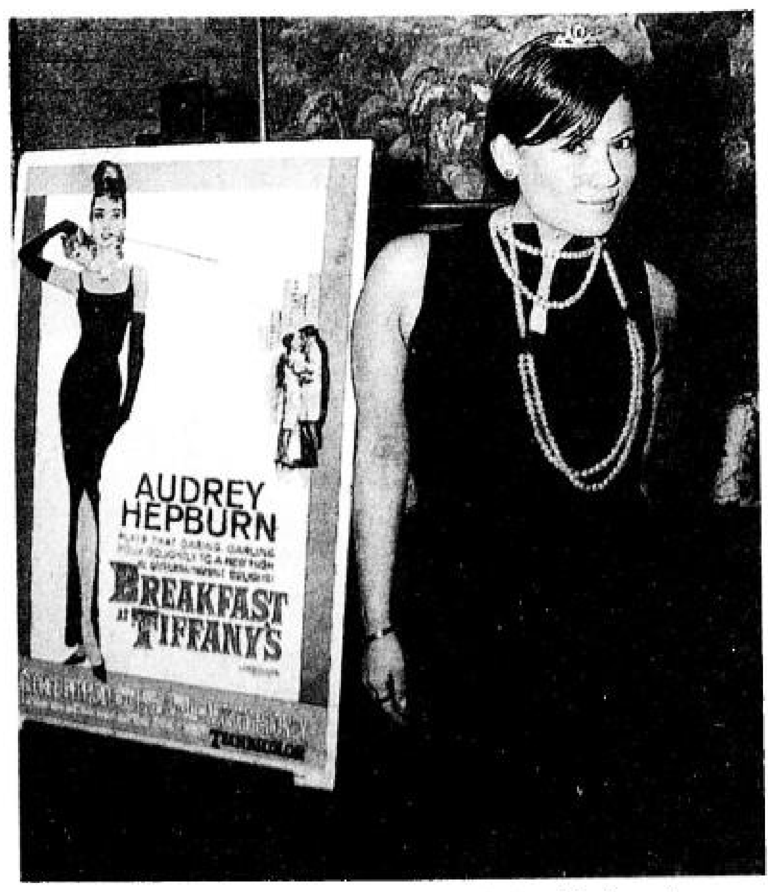
SARI-SARI'S take on Oscar fashion glam

CIVIC-HEARTED looker Marco Rodriguez with ladylove Lizelle Samson

MOVIE scion and director Caloy de Leon and *abogado de campanilla* Coching Yan

POWER MOVERS. Titos Almendral, Dong Rosal, Raffy Ocampo, Caloy de Leon and Mike Gourloy; (seated) Inq7 president Paolo Prieto and Ian Ocampo

BEAUTY queens/supermodels Patty Betita and Gem Padilla flank Lovapalooza producer Albert Almendralejo



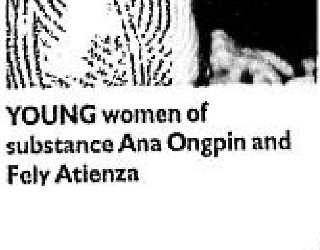
TV CELEBRITY Trish Salvador Ocampo as Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"

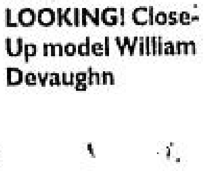
HOTSHOTS OF THE EVENT. RCMA's past, present and future presidents: PP Bobby Chang with the host and hostess of the affair, popular, well-respected couple, RCMA president Dong Rosal as Indiana Jones and his wife Linda Laperal as Sandy of "Grease"; Charter president Ollie Laperal with his son Desi Laperal, RCMA's incoming president

ABS-CBN hotshot Apa Ongpin, Carlo Tadiar and Manille's young, hot politician, Councilor Kim Atienza

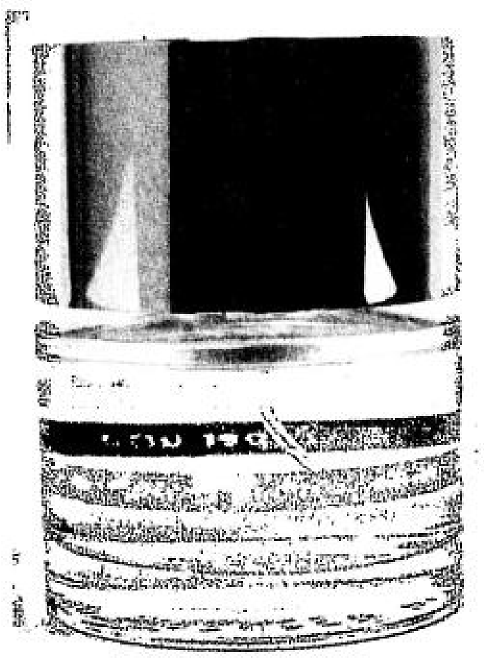
THE CENTENNIAL Rotary Anns. Angie de Castro, Ria Almendral, Grace Cochingyan and Jut Enriquez; (standing) Manille, New York and Paris writer par excellence, eye-catching Vicky de Leon, and the hostess Linda Legaspi Rosal

BRILLIANT Jay Ramos of the Subic Bay chain of hotels

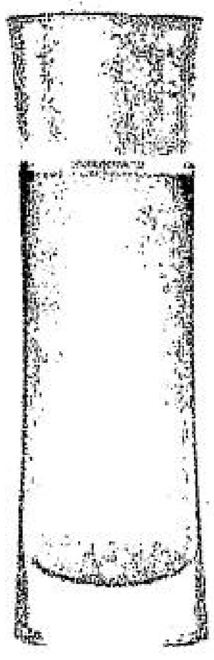

YOUNG women of substance Ana Ongpin and Fely Atienza


HEY, GOOD-LOOKING! Close-Up model William Devaughn

Delightful scents for women



MARKS & Spencer's per una presents a new fragrance created by George Davies. The per una eau de toilette is a multi-layered fragrance with a mix of floral notes, musky tones and touches of greenery. Flowers of magnolia, jasmine, rose and summer freesias mingle with a sensuous background of woods, heliotrope and patchouli. Per una fragrance is available at all Marks and Spencer stores.



GIORGIO Armani's Armani Mania, with its radiant femininity, brings a new touch of elegance to the family of Armani fragrances for women. Its top notes include laurel, mandarin and black currant. Its heart notes are magnolia, peony and lily of the valley while its base notes are cedar, sandalwood and amber. Armani Mania is exclusively available at Rustan's, SM, Robinsons and Landmark department stores.

New technology personalizes hair, scalp treatment

THE KÉRASTASE Institute offers the latest and most personalized hair and scalp treatments, with technology developed by L'Oreal Recherche Avancée.

Architect Conrad Onglao has created a space that combines high technology, luxury and relaxation. The space helps relieve tension away.

A hair and scalp diagnosis machine uses software that magnifies and analyzes all types of hair and scalp conditions under the supervision of a Kérastase expert on the diagnosis program. She creates a personalized Kérastase program for every client and recommends a home care program. A therapist then applies the product and does the massage. Each ritual has a specific head, back and shoulder massage to optimize each product's benefits.

The Kérastase treatment area is soundproofed and has separate changing rooms for men and women containing lounge robes, slippers, hair towels, cloth headbands and Velcro body wrap towels. An auxiliary salon houses other salon offerings such as haircolor, cut and blow, and nail services by Salon ESA.

Angles of hydraulic washbasins designed by Philippe Starck can be customized by remote control.

Exclusively for Kérastase, international label Stefano Cecchi Records has created a compact disc of 12 experiences, expressed in 12 music pieces.

A new fragrance, a unique ambient perfume, was also customized for the institute. Laura Tonatto was commissioned to create the fragrances for Kérastase. She created four fragrances for Kérastase, available in limited editions. Designer Mebs Yaqub designed the bottles for each fragrance, associated with each Kérastase ritual. For the institute, spray perfumes were made for all linen (hair towels, bathrobes, cushions) and spray perfumes for paper (credit card slips, brochures, prescription cards).

Call 8191040, 8190886 or e-mail avillaraza@ph.loreal.com.

Don't mask your true colors

THE NEW Max Factor Colour Adapt Foundation adapts to one's skin's inherent color variations and gives flawless coverage. The product contains tiny color reflecting particles that cover with single, continuous color across the skin. It also has advanced color adapting particles, which reflect personal skin tone variation. It provides incomparable adaptability—up to four times that of a regular foundation. In addition to superb coverage, Colour Adapt contains special molecules called elastomers, which give a silky smooth texture, for effortless application and blending.

Max Factor Colour Adapt is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in major department stores nationwide.

MAX Factor Colour Adapt Foundation

More and more are batting . . .

From page H1

belief and clarity.)

What he meant was women have been maintaining their eyelash extension as regularly as their hair, going to the salon to have their eyelashes "cleaned" and "refurbished."

A few seasons back women began taking to eyelash perm, and last October, in the cosmetics and beauty trade fair in Hong Kong, eyelash extension was a hot seller, on the heels of the hair extension trend. By then, Ricky had already introduced it in Manila.

What makes it click, I think, is the fact that your lashes don't look fake at all. That's because the procedure has become more painstaking, with each strand glued to your lid. You can choose the lushness and the length. It looks (almost) natural. It's like wearing a reinforced mascara 24/7.

In Bangkok last week, where our media junket took us to The Oriental Bangkok and in Chiang Mai, to the new lifestyle destination, the Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, we saw women, particularly in the Dhara Dhevi staff, sporting the "eyelash look."

It wasn't obvious, let's say, to the naked eye but then to the girls and the gentleman in our group whose business it is to know—and try—such stuff, it was obvious, and suddenly desirable.

I don't have eyelash extension myself even if Ricky has been trying to inveigle me into having one, nor does magazine editor **Sari Yap** (Lifestyle Asia). Seeing how routine it could be, I'm pretty sure Sari is only a day or two away from trying it.

INQUIRER's **Alex Vergara** in our group explained the mechanics. No big deal really. It takes only about an hour to have those lashes glued on to you. Then you come back every two weeks or so to have them maintained. It can take a month or two before you lose them. The procedure isn't as arduous and long as rebond or straightening.

So many women have eyelash extension on that you may perhaps not readily guess. I could try it except that a trip to the salon every week or two, to me, is a major commitment.

It's not really new, but I believe that this year, eyelash extension is going to be big. It will be as universal as hair rebond. Besides, it's cheaper. But it really makes you look good.

Bulletin's **Ethel Timbol**, in character, chided the "*kikays*" in our group: "You don't really think those lashes are enough to make you beautiful!" she whined. "But they are," the girls said, without batting their soon-to-be-fortified lashes.

"*Kikay*" era and its delusions. Luv it.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

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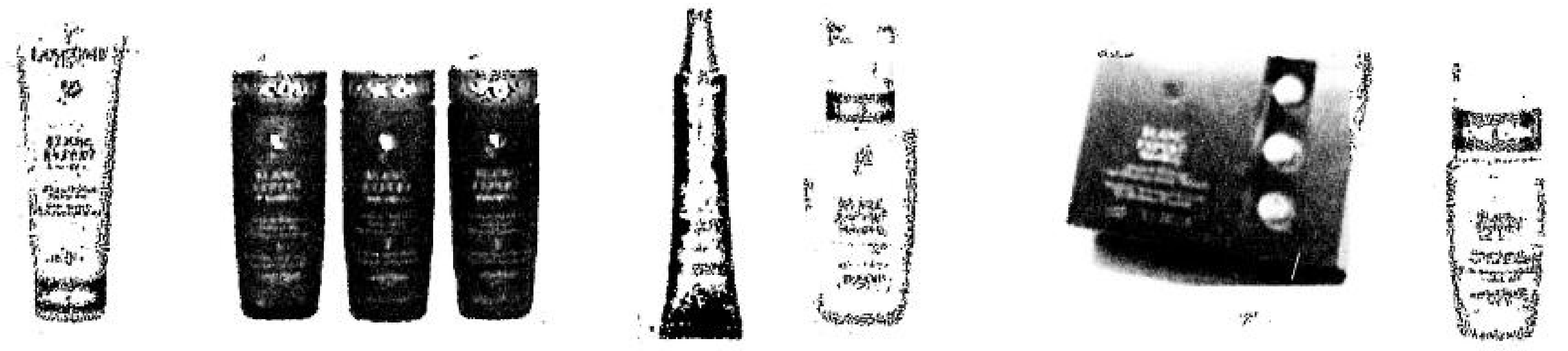
See posters and tentcards for details
Promo runs from March 13 to April 30, 2005 only
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1223 Series of 2005

THE AUTHOR using Lancôme's Diagnos machine



BLANC Expert range

Know your skin the high-tech way

Diagnos is used by Lancôme scientists to uncover the specific problem of your skin so you may deal with it accordingly

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

THERE are so many skincare products out there that one hardly knows what to pick for a particular skin type.

Most of us have a combination of problems that it's hard to stick to a specific regimen that treats just one. Lancôme has decided to lend us a helping hand in the form of Diagnos, a really high-tech machine which I tried out in Rustan's Makati. You will not be charged for using the machine, so you needn't worry about that.

Diagnos is used by Lancôme scientists to uncover the specific problem of your skin so you may deal with it accordingly. What you find out may surprise you. First, you will be asked how old you are, then the machine which has a computer monitor will magnify your skin 60 times and look deep down.

Diagnos will measure oil production on the T-zone and cheeks, firmness, hydration and pore size, and monitor signs of aging and pigmentation as well. It will compare your results with the average age group of your race (Caucasian, Asian, African American, etc.) and you will get results indicating if you are above average or in trouble.

My results showed that my skin was definitely younger than average. It even looked better than those of average Asian women in their 20s, said the machine.

My problems? My oil production was three times more than the average 30-year-old, and there were huge pores and very dark pigmentation deep down.

Needless to say, the results shocked me. I never go under the sun, have been wearing sun block since I was 12, and have been praised numerous times for my poreless skin. Even the girl had to double check, as she too was surprised.

Turns out that while I just take care of my skin really well and have been using the right products ever since, pigmentation was just about ready to break out under the skin.

If you look at the surface of my skin, there is none visible. But on the screen, as clear as day, there was a huge map of pigmentation with only tiny spaces in between just dying to burst to the surface. Obviously, my vacations in Boracay where I put my guard down to enjoy the sun left considerable damage that was set to surprise me when I got older.

My friends laughed out loud when the entire whitening range Blanc Expert with Mela No-Cx was recommended for me to correct this. Having such strong Chinese ancestry gave me very light skin, but the abundance of melanin which makes skin age slower also makes it prone to hyperpigmentation. A lot of fair-skinned Asians would probably have that same problem.

The good thing with using a whitening/brightening range is that you can break them down before using them. For my pores, I would substitute the Blanc Expert essence for the Sensation Total vitamin C serum which cleans out and contracts pores as well as repairs any environmental damage. My day moisturizer would be Lancôme's SPF 50+ sun block.

My eye area, though, shows no sign of aging, so I could choose whatever eye cream I wanted except those which were very rich in texture like Resolution. The choices were Primordial, for prevention of signs of early aging, and Blanc Expert, for dark circles and line prevention.

I chose Blanc Expert as I now knew my tendency for pigmentation. My hydration and firmness quotients were also way above average.

New body range

Have you passed by PCX or First Aid lately? There is this new French body line that has caught my eye.

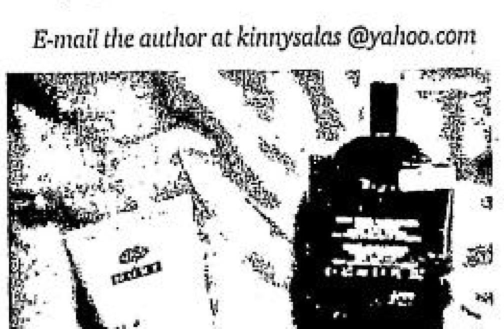
The brand is Nuxe, which has a very similar logo and packaging to Origins, but the similarities end there.

The star product in the group is the Multi-usage Dry Oil Golden Shimmer for the hair and body. I apply it to the ends of my hair after every shower and it gives the hair subtle highlights and major shine.

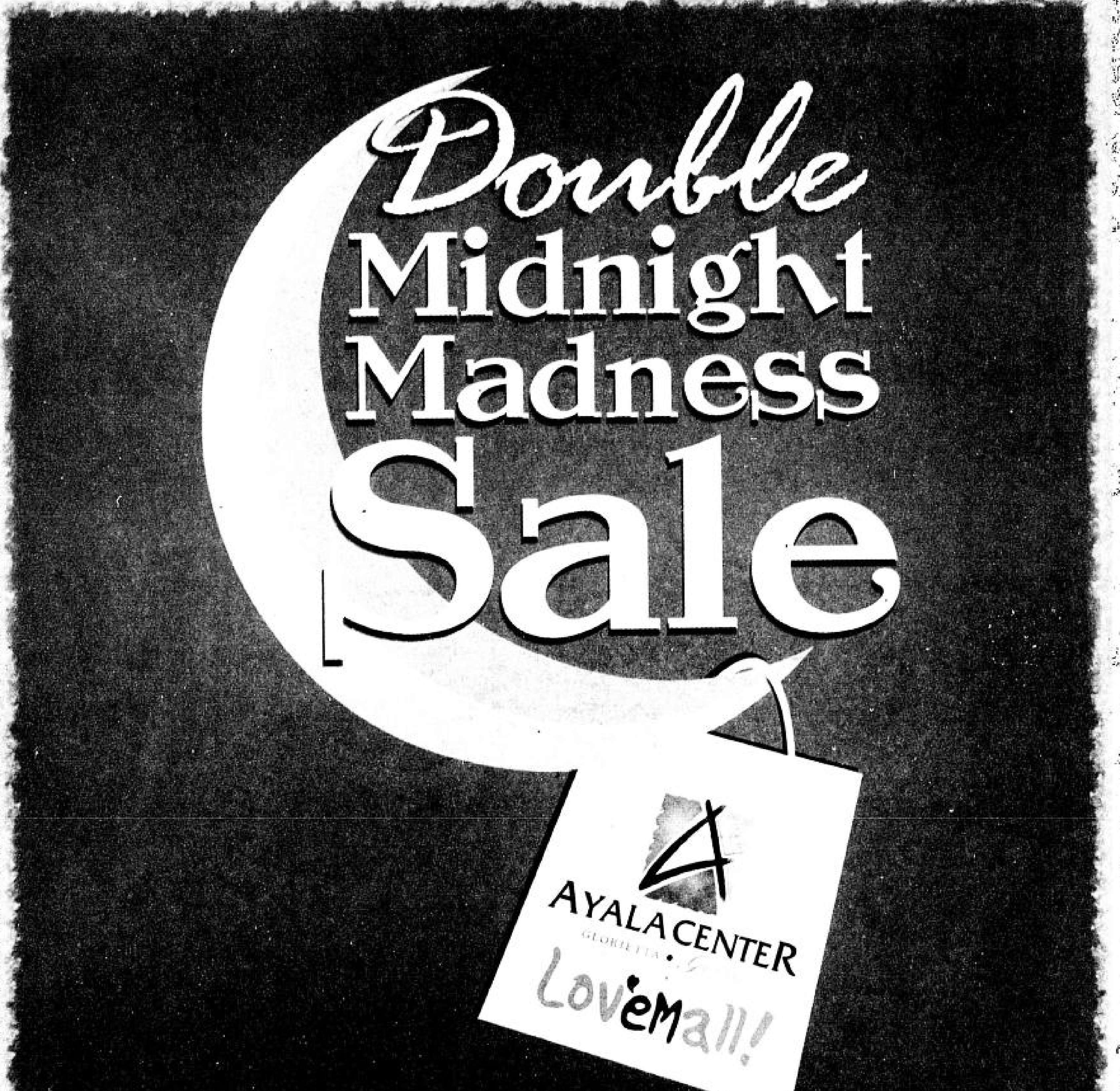
On the body, the Shimmer gives a very flattering glow when applied strategically. The Family Balm, meanwhile, penetrates the driest of areas like the legs, cuticles, hands, heels and elbows. It has mosquito repellant properties and SPF 12, but is gentle enough to be used on the face and on babies.

My personal favorite and something I would definitely buy again is the exfoliating soap. It is coarse enough to be effective for my back, arms and legs without being scratchy. I have successfully eliminated the blackheads and pimples on my back and shoulders and prevented ingrown hairs caused by waxing on my legs. I use it for my back and shoulders daily but twice a week on my legs.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas @yahoo.com



NUXE star products



March 18 and 19: Up to 12 midnight
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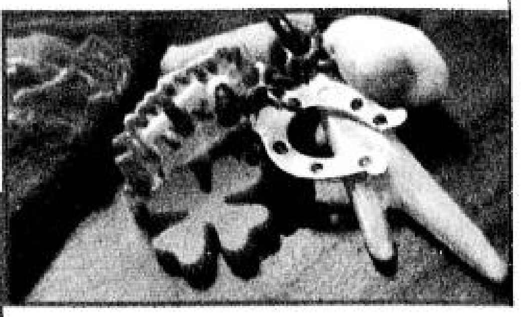
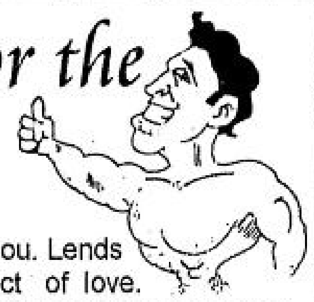
Summer's here!



A Sexy Tea for the Great Lover



The sexy tea for the lover in you. Lends passion and power to the act of love. A wholesome remedy that heightens the man's sensual and tantric awareness.

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Honey Moon Tea is available at all leading drugstores and selected supermarkets nationwide.

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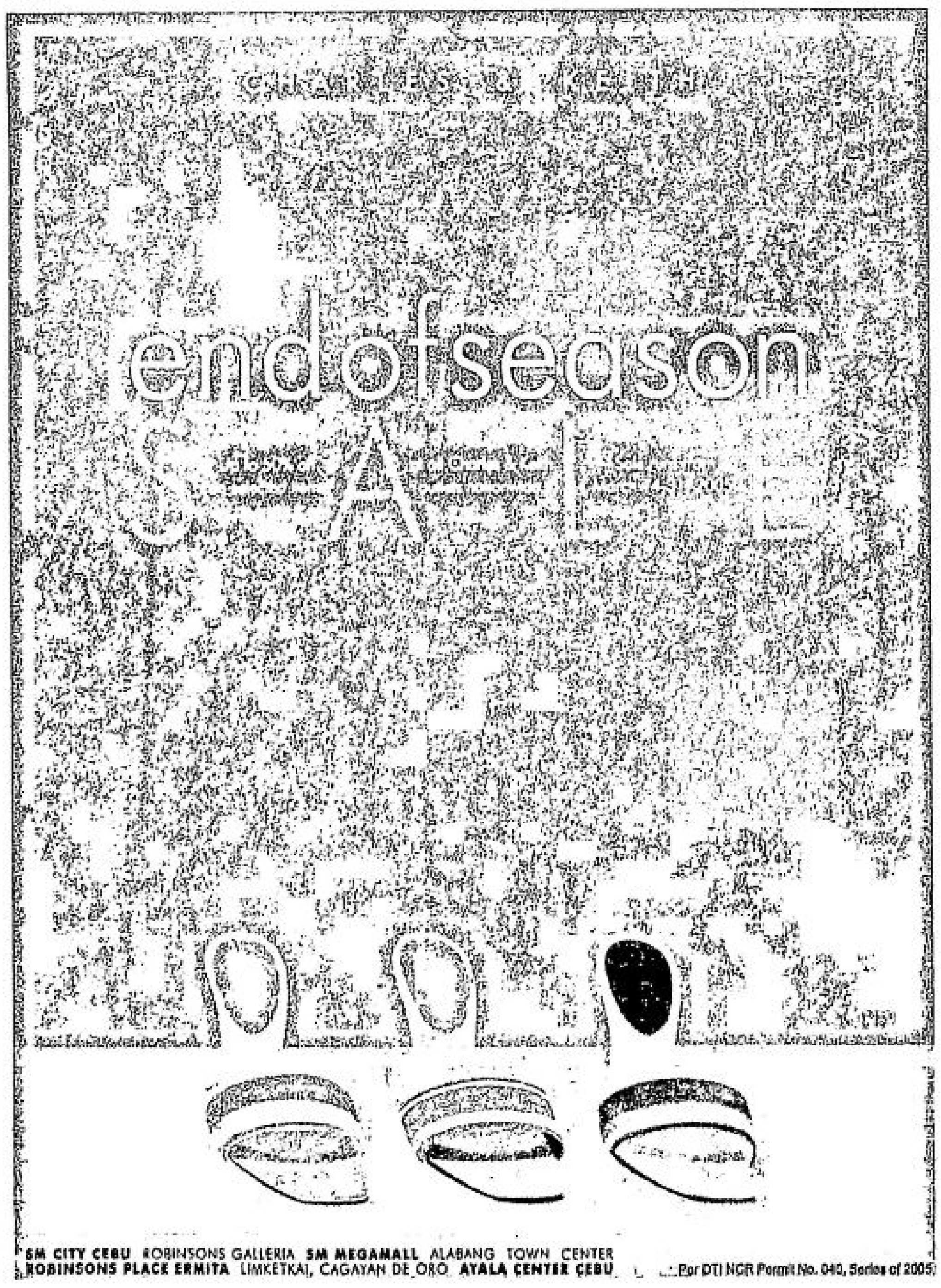

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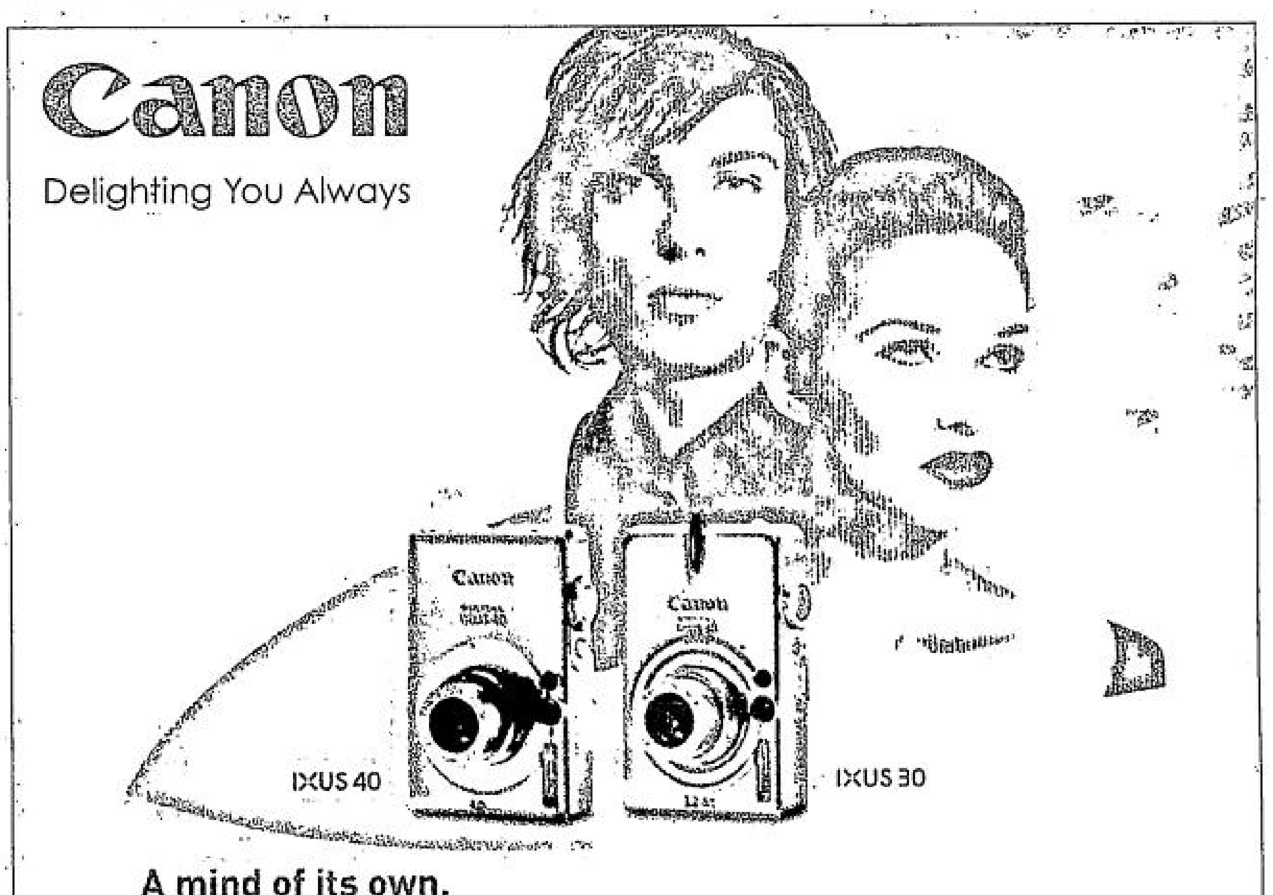

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In the stylish world of compact digital cameras, Digital IXUS has once again set the trend in both form and function. Sheathed inside its sleek metallic body, is the powerful DIGIC II imaging processor which delivers the most stunning pictures. In addition, the superior Canon UA Lens (Ultra High Refractive Index Aspherical Lens) reduces colour dispersion to ensure sharp, brilliant and true colours. Despite its slimmer and more compact frame, the straight collapsible mount lens system ensures top optical performance for high image quality always. Take your pick from two cool designer looks and make the ultimate fashion statement now with the new IXUS 40/30.

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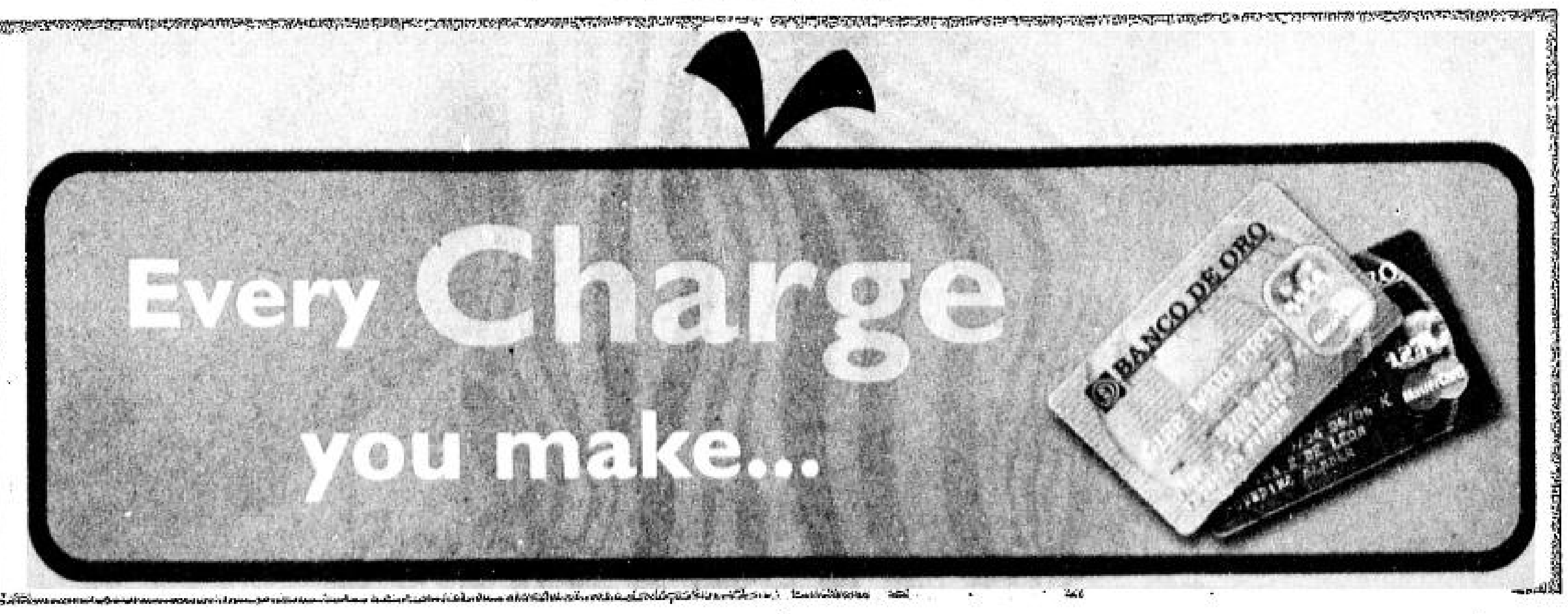


Sun-dappled luxury

POLKA HOT. Satin wrap dress with polka dot print.

JUNGLE RHYTHMS. Fern green linen floor-length dress with pink satin ribbon.

CULTE Femme, the haute label from Rustan's, sets anchor on Palm Beach, with a collection that sizzles with a luxurious beach vibe and ultra sexy sun-drenched style.

Designer Hindy Weber-Tantoco presents a collection that conjures thoughts of glazed bodies, sunset pool parties, and summer fun with wild abandon. Picturesque paradise takes form in breezy flowing tops, chic floor-length dresses and classic wrap bodices.

The iconic kaftan, reminiscent of '70s icon Talitha Getty's fashion, comes in floral prints. Worn over a bikini or a pair of jeans, the kaftan will be a key ingredient in your summer wardrobe. Breakthrough pieces also include skinny legging pants, wide trousers, and pleated shorts.

The collection includes marvelous original prints of leaves, animal and ethnic prints, and polka dots that will remind you of the luxe boho life. Splashed with bursting colors such as electric pink, azure blue and fern green, while contrasted with ebony and white, the collection stamps each piece with a fun, feminine attitude. Fabrics are lightweight and cool, such as linen, cotton voile, satin, stretch knit and twill.

The collection showcases ethnic-inspired embroidery, as well as intricate beadwork using wood and stones (such as turquoise and faux coral).

Spice up your look with one of the brand's hottest summer staples—the linen sash in brilliant colors.

Culte Femme is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Robinsons Place Manila and Alabang Town Center.

PHOTOS: MARK NICDAO
MAKEUP: CHECHEL JOSON
HAIR: ANDREA ZULUETA
MODEL AND STYLING:
HINDY WEBER-TANTOCO

SWINGIN' SUMMER. Pucci-inspired silk chiffon kaftan worn with hot pink linen sash.

PINK AND PROUD. Hot pink linen [illegible] with original Culte Femme silkscreen print worn with mini [illegible] Fern green linen sash. Turquoise leather [illegible]

WILD ABANDON. [illegible]

Shoppers' delight at Edsa crossing

THE Edsa Central Pavilion, the gateway to the Edsa Central Complex, is a modern shopping destination at the corner of Shaw and Edsa.

Here, mallgoers can enjoy superb shopping choices—everything from head accessories to foot wear.

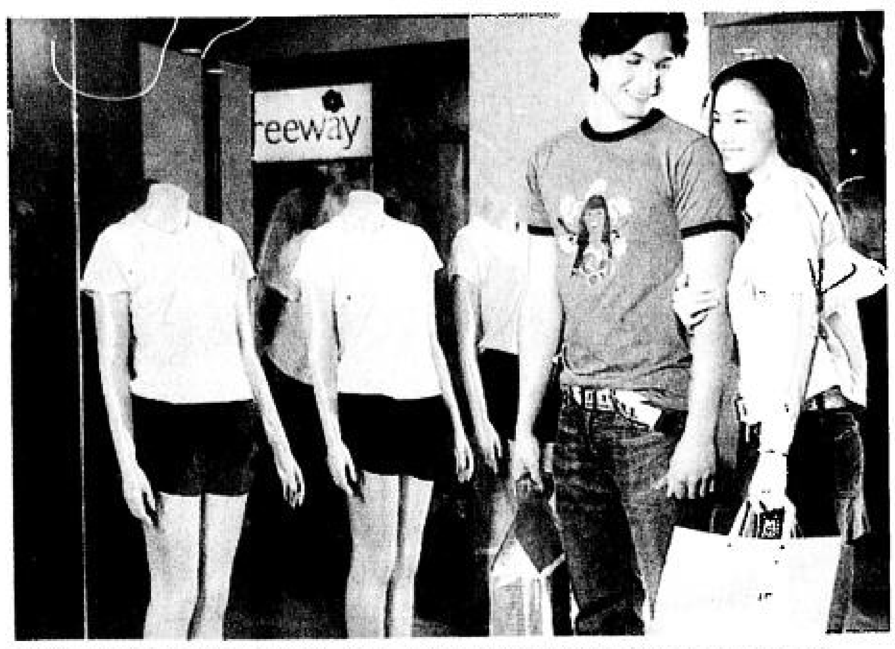
Familiar brands like Bench, Nike Park, Otto Shoes, Dickies, Lee USA, RRJ, Wrangler, and hip boutiques such as My Dollar Store, Freeway and IFU offer the very latest in fashion and merchandise.

Parents and kids can fill their hungry tummies at popular fastfood stores like Jollibee, Burger King, Greenwich, KFC, Chowking and French Baker on the ground floor of the mall.

Officemates and college *barkada* can hang out at the second level, while couples can enjoy the romantic ambience of the food court balcony, designed as a unique al fresco dining section that looks out over the entire Edsa Central Complex.

The Food Strip at the Edsa Central Sto. Cristo side also boasts of food stops like Max's, Indulgence Café and Bin Khamis Kebab House.

Stressed-out commuters and shoppers can get the pampering they deserve at Edsa Central salons like Dermcare, David's Salon and Ricky Reyes. Or they can indulge in the comfort of their own homes by buying products from Watson's.



PASSION FOR FASHION. The Edsa Central Pavilion provides a good mix of specialty shops that offer the very latest in fashion and merchandise.

On special weekends, families can watch live entertainment shows at the Pavilion. On the ground level, there's a mini-park with water features, planters and benches where shoppers can stop and rest. Walkways and connecting bridges ensure comfortable and convenient access to structures within the complex and to the MRT station.

Bargain stores, service centers and fastfood outlets line the Edsa Central Hub, where jeepney, FX, taxi and bus terminals are also located. Residents of nearby villages get their supply of fresh produce and meat at the Edsa Central Marketplace, the only traditional wet market at the heart of a commercial and business district.

The Edsa Central Square, a bargain hunter's haven, houses Automatic Center, National Bookstore and numerous stalls that offer goods at bazaar prices. And then there's the Edsa Central Station where shoppers waiting to catch an MRT ride can do express shopping and dining.

Girls of summer

PREVIEW magazine's March issue features 12 free-spirited females who really know how to have fun under the sun.

Find out how Hindy Weber-Tantoco, Kakai Arroyo, China Cojuangco, Anne Arcenas-Gonzalez, Louele Soong, Jackie Antonio, Iza Calzado, Sheeva Zarechian, Alexi Alunan, Oona Mapua, Patty Laurel and Ana Antonio surrender to summer.

China Cojuangco

Hot spots: The beach or San Francisco

Summer staple: Toiletries, clothes, a pillow, tanning oil, a bathing suit, a sarong, Havaianas and Banana Peel

Grooves to: iPod

Brain food: "A Purpose Driven Life," "Woman's Book of Soul" and crossword puzzles

Iza Calzado

Hot spots: Boracay and Baguio

Summer staple: Underwear, sunblock and moisturizer, wedge shoes and *tsinelas* (Beachwalk slippers), and Waigu slippers

Grooves to: Anton Ramos' chillout CDs, Jamiroquai, Chicane and Celso Fonseca

Brain food: "Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz; Sidney Sheldon, Mitch Albom or Paolo Coelho

Ana Antonio

Hot spots: Boracay, Pearl Farm, Baguio, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, Dumaguete, Tanjay

Summer staple: SPF 64 sunscreen, Gucci shades and bikinis, and Havaianas

Grooves to: "Woman on Top" soundtrack and any old CDs that remind her of high school summer vacations

Brain Food: Paolo Coelho books

Anne Arcenas-Gonzalez

Hot Spots: Calatagan, Kawayan Cove, Sta. Elena

Summer staple: Bikini, flip-flops and sunblock, Havaianas and leather thong sandals

Grooves to: David Gray, Fleetwood Mac and Latin tunes like Mana, Sergio Mendes and Daniela Mercury

Brain food: Vogue, In Style, Vanity Fair and Conde Nast Traveler

Preview, the country's style bible, also sets summer on fire with bronze beauty Angel Aquino on the cover.

Available at your nearest newsstand, magazine stand or bookstore for P100 per copy.

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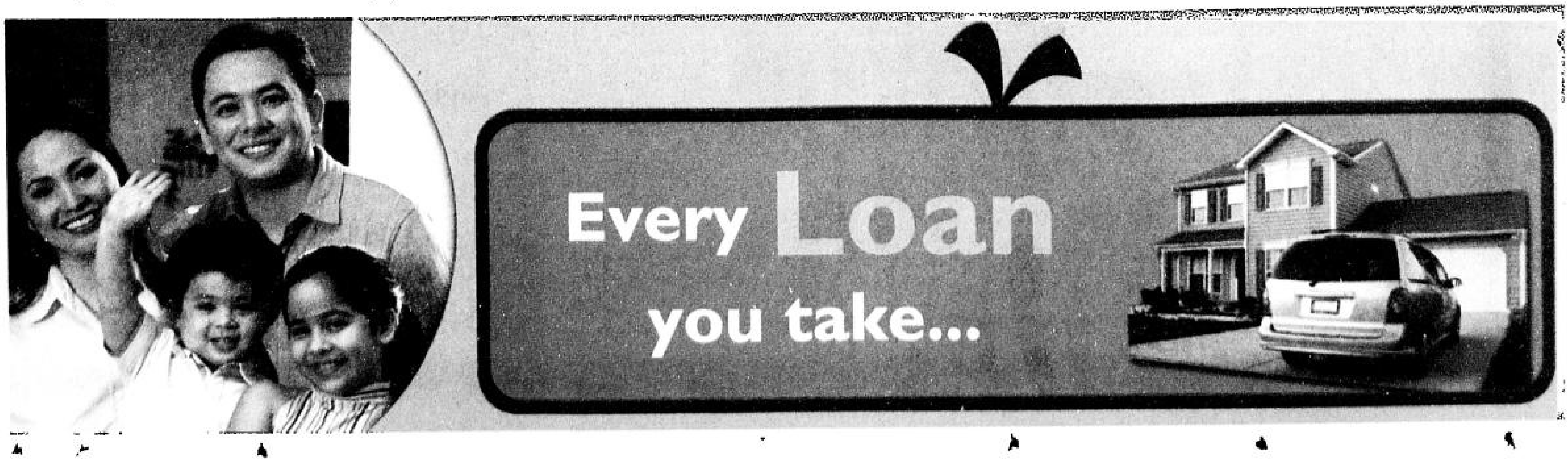

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FUCHIA bandeau top with matching bikini with buckle accents

ORANGE hibiscus-printed bra top with matching boy shorts

SIZZLING orange swimsuit with matching *sarong*

Sultry summer

SUMMER sizzles with sultry swimsuits from SM.

Perfect for frolicking in the sun, these come in one-piece suits and cool separates that are both fab and flattering.

Get into the swim of things with camikinis and tankinis, exotic triangle and bandeau tops, flirty string bikini sets, playful boy shorts. Bloom in a floral-printed swimsuit, or make a solid statement with tie-neck, buckle, ruffle and drawstring details.

And don't forget the season's perfect cover ups—lighter-than-air sarongs and flowing cabana pants.

The swimwear collection is available at the ladies' wear department of all SM stores.

ONE-PIECE V-neck blue floral-printed swimsuit with ruffles and drawstring details

TWO-TONED tankini with paisley and floral prints

AQUA-BLUE tie-neck cami top with tropical floral prints

COOL getaway, aqua-blue triangle top with splash prints with matching string bikini worn with cabana pants

PHOTOGRAPHY: RAYMUND ISAAC

Chic fun and comfort

GET RUNWAY chic as Maldita unleashes an explosion of vivid colors and exciting new design choices in a collection dedicated to the spirit of fun, natural beauty and comfort.

Make a bold statement and shine this hot Summer 2005 as Maldita, the power-dressing women's favorite present presents classic, structured and feminine separates with comfort and pizzazz for that urban, straightforward glamour. Show up in stunning, sexy tops; hip, stylish cocktail jackets; soft, feminine blouses; chic skirts; or funky denim jeans.

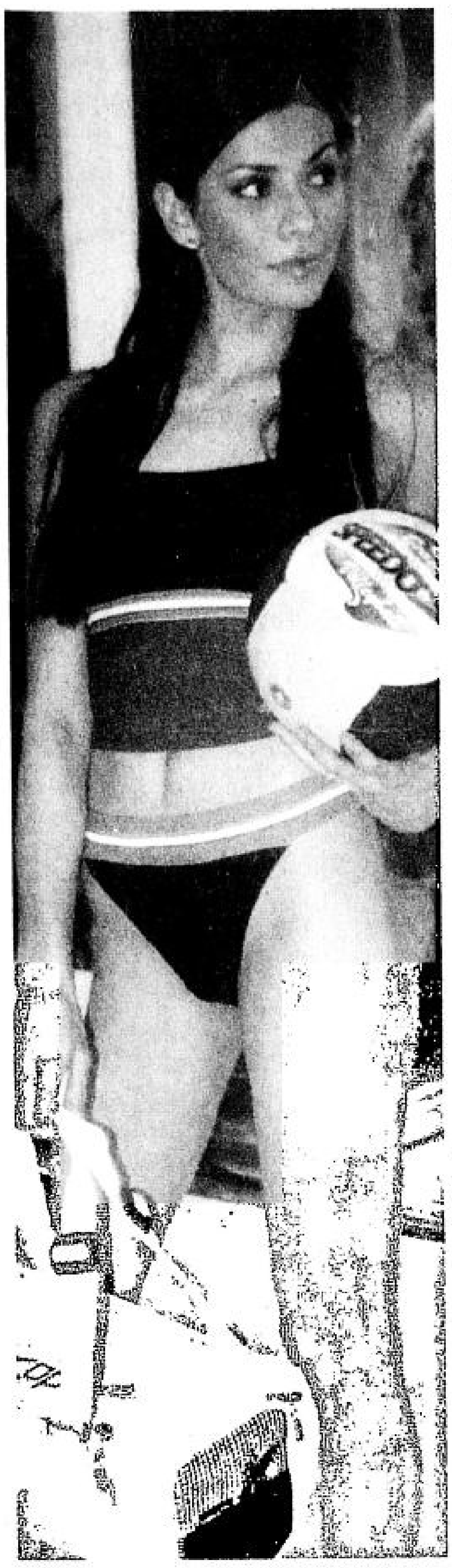
Visit any of the Maldita stores at SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Sucat, SM Fairview, SM Southmall, SM Dasmariñas, SM Cebu City, SM San Fernando, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta I, Festival Mall Alabang; Outlet Yard, Quezon Avenue and Market! Market!, Bonifacio Global City. Find out what styles are in, what colors are hot and what looks are best suited for you.

MIDNIGHT COWBOY. Crisp long-sleeved blouse with wide cuff, P899; black wide-leg pinstripe polybend pants, P1,199; chandelier earrings with semiprecious stones, P149; two-way magnet lariat with crystals, P599; and black braided leather belt, P1,499

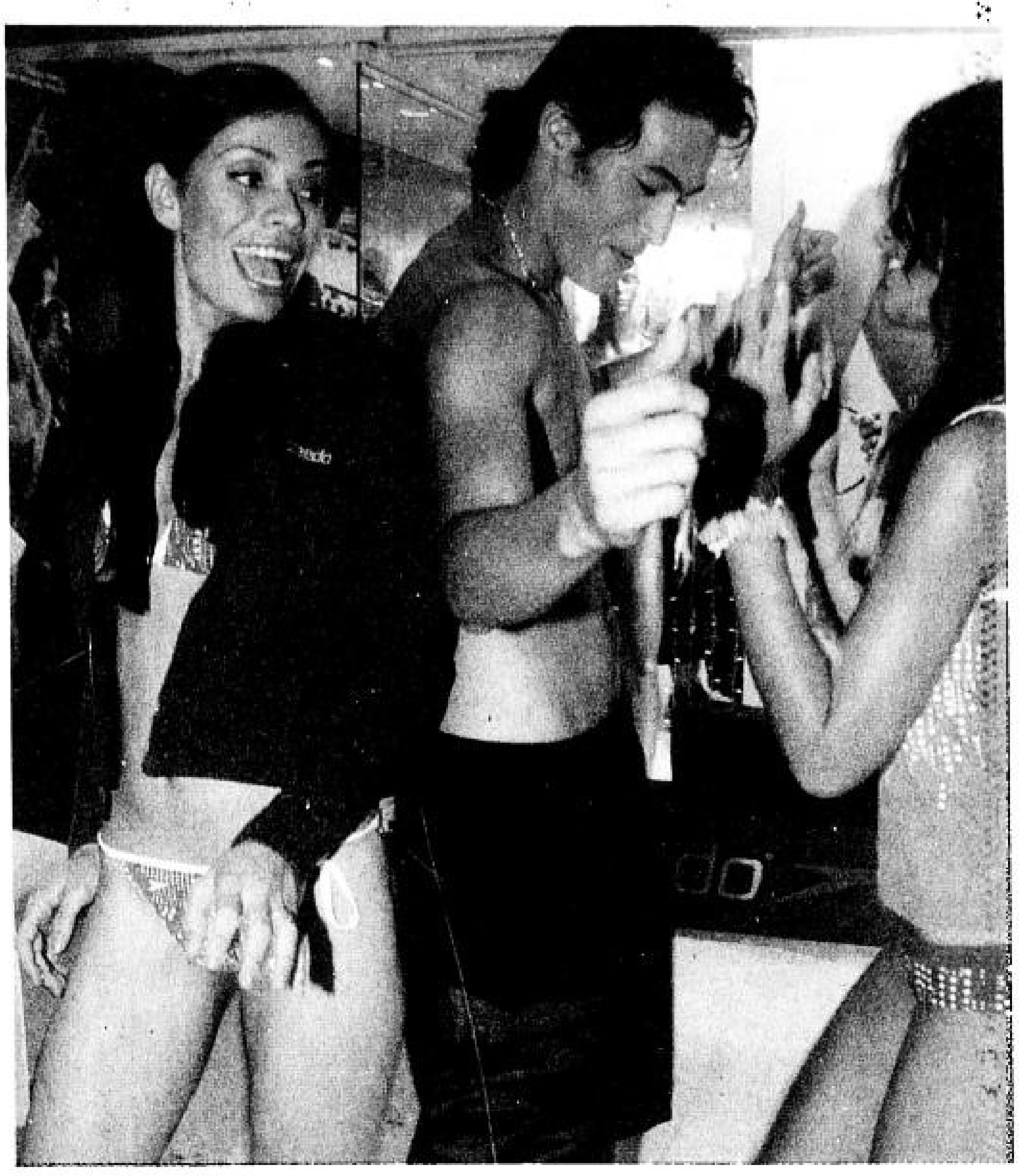
WHITE PRINCESS. White lace top , green silk pashmina, P699; white bootleg stripe pants with matching belt in stretch twill, P1,199; silver double loop earrings, P249

PINK BLOSSOM. Hot pink off-shoulder asymmetric dolman hersey blouse, distressed denim pants with stitch detail, P999; black two-way magnet bracelet with crystals, P599

DENIM FUNK. Black pinstripe jacket with stitch detail in Polybed, P1,599; distressed stretch denim pants with stitch detail; black chandelier earrings, P129


CATHY is all set for a game of beach volley in her Beam Tankini by Speedo.

GRACING the opening were Jorge Araneta, chair of Araneta Group of Companies, and Vandara Mahtani, Speedo's VP for marketing

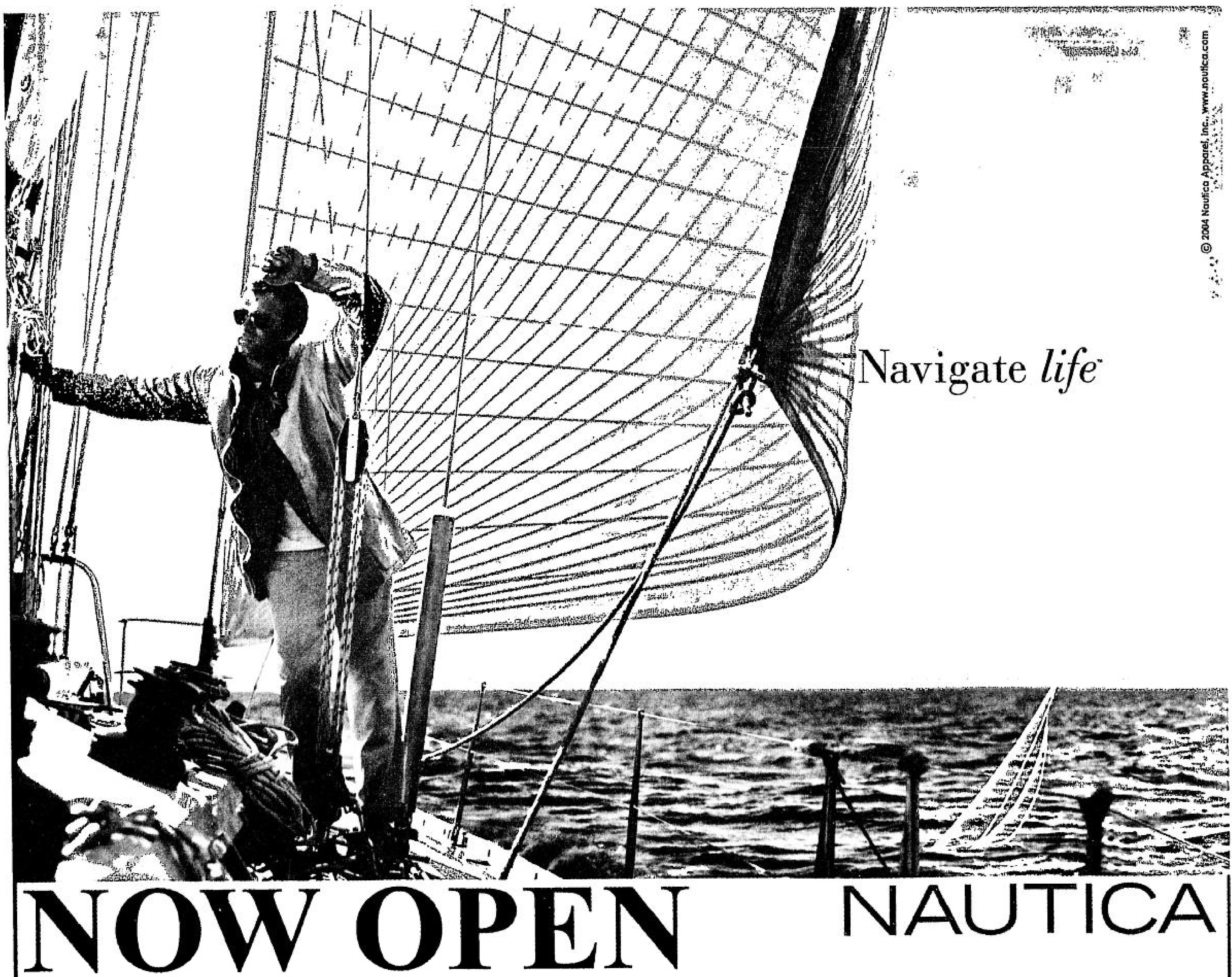

MODELS groove to the beat in Speedo's BV Polka collection. Cathy (left) in a Polka tri-bikini and zipsweat top. Carol (right) in hipster bikini and tank top. Francis in J-Bay black board shorts

Getaway fashion

SPEEDO presents sports watches and underwear, fashionable beachwear, fitness apparel and eyewear.

The Speedo Concept Store is located at Gateway Mall, Cubao, QC; Glorietta 4, Makati; SM Megamall; Robinsons Place Ermita; Alabang Town Center; The Podium; Eastwood Citywalk II; Paseo de Santa Rosa; Ayala Center Cebu; SM City Cebu; Gaisano Mactan; Robinsons Place Bacolod; SM City Davao; and SM City Cagayan de Oro.

THE NEWLY OPENED Speedo concept store at Gateway Mall, Cubao



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NOW OPEN NAUTICA

GLORIETTA 4 THE PODIUM POWER PLANT MALL ROBINSONS GALLERIA

Sweet dreaming in comfortable sleepwear

MAIDENFORM introduces the first of its newest collection: the Dancing Flower sleepwear.

The new sleepwear line has more than the blacks, greys and whites. It also has yellow and pink items, cool and comfortable tanks, shorts, pajamas, chemises, and night shirts with Maidenform's signature crisp and clean look.

Maidenform's clean and fresh look is brought to the best advantage by Pilates practitioner Plinky Recto.

Maidenform sleepwear is made of 100-percent combed cotton, A class. The material is of the highest quality, and finely processed to suit Maidenform's strict standards. Each product is designed to provide comfortable fit that feels smooth on the skin and does not get out of shape. It works well with a woman's natural body moisture.

Maidenform's sleepwear collection marries form and function.

Maidenform is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. in leading department stores nationwide.

PLINKY Recto in a black cotton spandex self-lined tank

COTTON spandex self-lined tank in banana cream; printed jersey drawstring shorts with solid waistband in daisy stripe; French Terry with zip-front hoodie and embroidery in banana cream

COTTON spandex self-lined tank in signature pink and printed jersey drawstring capri pants with solid waistband in daisy stripe

COTTON spandex self-lined tank in white and knit drawstring long pants in heather gray

Sleep in Beauty

Forgettting to remove your make -up is no longer a problem. With Colour Collection's dermatologically tested formulation, your skin is safe from irritation no matter how long it stays on.

COLOUR COLLECTION
It colors. It cares.

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Colour Collection is another quality brand from Sara Lee Direct, Interested? **Call 810-5402 or email customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph**

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